

Maclean's

Canada's Weekly Newsmagazine

January 8, 2001 www.macleans.ca \$4.50

CANADA
WITNESS TO MURDER

ESSAY
PETER C. NEWMAN
ON THE END OF
CANADA

At the Breaking Point

Dr. Heidi Oetter is one of countless Canadian doctors and nurses feeling so burned out that they are ready to abandon the health system. She is considering giving up her family practice in Coquitlam, B.C., and opening a bed-and-breakfast.



\$4.50



From the
Managing Editor



And what does the future hold?

Does anyone remember all the forecasts a year ago as the year 2000 dawned? Colonies, education, Internet fantasies, futures and assorted other wackos were wild predicting what would happen in the new millennium. Remember? The Y2K bug would dominate global economics. Assassination would descend on us. And Jesus Christ would return from political life. None of these things happened, of course, which is about par for new year predictions and other prophecies.

According to University of Toronto professor David A. Wilson, a recent study in the United States some years ago concluded that a thousand deaths of the forecasts made by American social scientists between 1945 and 1989 were wrong. Only two died!

Wilson has just written a splendid book, *The History of the Future* (McArthur & Co., \$29.95), which explores mankind's urge to forecast the future. I particularly like the story of Michael Stieff, a Lutheran pastor in Germany, who predicted that the Day of Judgment would arrive in 1533. On Oct. 9 he flamed. There is no risk involved in being too pessimistic in one's prognostications, as Stieff learned. When the pre-

dicted hour passed without incident, his parishioners asked him, bound him and hauled him to Wittenberg, where they proceeded to use him for damages.

Who knows, unfulfilled prophecies could be a lucrative field for modern-day litigation lawyers. In 1965, Wilson



writes, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences assembled 30 leading intellectuals from various disciplines to think about what the world would be like by 2000. To their credit, they got some things right: They forecast the convergence of personal computers and fax machines, safer cars, large-scale mechanized agriculture, advances in

organ transplants and even the development of Viagra. The thinkers got more wrong than right, however. They predicted a big problem for Americans in 2000 would be too much leisure; they would have so much free time that people would be paid not to work. Every household would have a robot maid. Racism would strike people anywhere in the world in under 90 minutes. There would be colonies on the moon and the first children would have been born there by 2000. Assassins would have landed on Mars. Every home would have its own air date guarantee. And scientific replication of the climate would eliminate air pollution and create a gentle rain that would turn deserts into fertile land. All this by 2000!

If we can't live a successful classmate's suit for these failed predictions, the best alternative might be a new year's resolution: no more predictions.

Stephen Krum

respond to questions as to comments on From the Managing Editor

Newsroom Notes

A challenging job

As government money flows back in to health care, who will guide us away from the mazes of complexity? After 5½ years on the job, Health Minister Allan Rock was reluctant to grant interviews near the end of the year because a rumored cabinet shuffle could snare more time into another post. His able deputy, David Dodge, is leaving to be-

come governor of the Bank of Canada. That could leave an inexperienced federal team facing a steep learning curve to come to grips with the critical health challenges outlined in this week's cover package, beginning on page 22.

As Health Editor Mark Nichols points out, staff reflections have left doctors, nurses and other health-care workers struggling to meet the demands



Marshall (left), Nichols: 'Doctors' deeply frustrated'

they face. "Canadian medical professionals feel deeply frustrated by problems beyond their control," says Nichols. "The new money offers hope of improvement, but even with the best management it will take time."

Overseen by Assistant Managing Editor Robert Marshall, the cover package was designed by Acting Art Director Gaele Salomon.

There we go, changing everything again.



Can your minivan do this?



Power rear and side doors with safety sensors.

Our power rear door opens automatically at the touch of a button and our power side doors have safety sensors so they'll stop when they need to.



Our most powerful Caravan ever.

More power than ever before—actually 14% more from the 3.0Lp 3.3L V6. Or you can choose a whopping 17% more with the optional 215hp 3.6L V6.



Peace of mind protection. Our new Five Star Protection makes owning a Dodge Caravan easy. With 5 year/100,000km powertrain coverage and 5 year/100,000km 24-hour Roadside Assistance, there's nothing left to worry about.

5100

THE ALL NEW 2001 DODGE CARAVAN.

Dodge  Caravan

For a virtual test drive, simply log onto
www.dodgevehicles.com

If you only had 30 minutes
to ask your advisor about your portfolio,



what questions would you ask?

The time you spend with your advisor may be more valuable than you think. How much should you set aside? What is your risk level? How do you balance your financial priorities? The Getting Good Advice Program from Fidelity gives you practical questions you need to enhance your relationship with your advisor. No matter what your retirement goals happen to be, getting good advice from your advisor begins with you asking the right questions.



Call 1-800-263-4077 for your Getting Good Advice Guide. Or visit www.gettinggoodadvice.fidelity.ca

Overture

@macleans.ca

Edited by Anthony Wilson-Smith
with Sheldene Dwyer

Over and Under Achievers

Lemieux fares better than PQ

The heroes and zeros of 2001!
Martin lays out the scores!

Michael: what a bore! Lucien comes in the first! And Dabrye the lack with Gore!

◆ **Super Mario:** Forget the sometimes rather personality that made Mario Lemieux hockey's *Grease* (yep) One: He's back on ice—and still great there.

◆ **The PQ:** Widespread defeat by Jacques Parizeau and Co. of neo-Scottish remarks by Péloquie: Yves Michaud's diatribe rap-of-pussy: How



Lemieux (left), Lucien jags 33 seconds into his comeback, Lemieux sets up a goal

would ya like it if someone said *fantasy* Quebecers were the world's greatest complainers, Mr. Michael?

◆ **Lucien Bourque:** Quebec's premier stands tall on this one, condemning Michael's remarks. Raise a toast to him.

◆ **Mr. Canada:** Chops 3,500 jobs and announces plans to raise taxes on gas come out over Christmas. And you

thought Jim Carrey was the best choice to play George.

◆ **David Dodge:** Bank of Canada gets it right by naming whop means civil servant as governor in charge of loose Ottawa in Dodge City now, parader

◆ **George Dabrye:** Notice how down the media have suddenly decided he is now that he's president-elect?



O boring anthem?

While working in a Minnesota-area high school, **Art Posner** remembers watching students struggle to keep their eyes open every morning during the playing of the national anthem. "The quality of the recordings was terrible," says Posner. "It was a military-band arrangement played from scratchy tapes."

That experience led to the creation of a privately funded CD, with seven modern versions of the national anthem (two in French). The CD, first intended for distribution in elementary and high schools, was produced by Posner, a Toronto-based musician, and arranger **Mark Golden**. While Posner was able to recruit the anthem's musical accompaniment, the 1980 National Anthem Act did place constraints on his creativity. "The law states that the basic melody and lyrics have to stay exactly true to how it was written," he says. "We had a dance version—but I don't think Canada is ready for it yet."

Golden says that while 99 per cent of public responses have been positive, some have expressed varying levels of dissonance. "One teacher told us that in '9—' with the anthem," he says. "Another blamed us for 'topping our anthem and pillaging the youth of our nation.'"

The pair are used to rejection, when they approached Heritage Canada last year, it promptly turned them away. "I guess it wasn't Canadian enough," Golden says sarcastically. But the two 30-year-olds will have a second meeting with the department in January at Heritage's request—a result of the overwhelming support they say they've received from educators nationwide. To break even, Golden says they need to sell about 1,500 copies of the CD, which was released in the fall. While both Posner and Golden admit that their goal is still well away, it isn't a great concern. Says Posner: "We just want to stop kids from snoring on their desks when the anthem plays." For more on the CD, see www.canadianthem.com.

John Ianni

Web Watch

Shortly after George W. Bush was confirmed as the American president-elect, this parody of his January inauguration speech—mocking his penchant for malapropisms—began circulating on the Web.

My fellow Americans,

As I stand here, looking out over this magnificent Valley, I think we can agree the post is over. Americans have made their decision. They don't need sympathy; they need shockwaves. We need to move beyond the petty smallness. We can make the pie bigger. Let everyone who needs to put food on the table put their family on the table. I don't believe a president should be choosing who are the right Americans and who are the wrong Americans. All of us are together, white or young, black or right.

We know that America is the best in the world. We are the great super province we cannot afford to be attacked. We need a shapely sword to light our way. The purpose of prosperity is to make sure the American dream reaches every heart with money. I get on with small business, because I was one myself. I'm less than. But I'm also more. We are all less and more. More or less.

I know you would rather be watching TV, and so would I, so I will draw to a conclusion. My message is: we will trust the people we serve, and serve the people we trust. But we shall not trust the people with the money of the people who paid to get us here. Together, we can do what needs to be done to preserve this great board of freedom. Thank-you, and God help America.



Bush malapropisms make him easy target for Web-based spoof

Overbites

"A hot trick, he said, as the pressure's on."

—**Mario Lemieux** reveals sequel by four-year-old son **Austin**, prior to his comeback game. He settled for a goal and two assists.

"Over the past few years, I have noticed the death of kneeling. Why is it that God no longer dresses us to our intent?"

—**Stephen Pedley**, Anglican Bishop of Lancaster, launches campaign for worshippers to pray properly.

"The crown of gold fox, they are still my guests."

—**Muriel Closs**, owner of the San Marcos Villa in Myrtle Beach, S.C., discusses fan and Loren Kossel, who surrendered on Dec. 23 to Canadian officials. The Toronto couple are suspects in a \$100-million fraud.

"Chequing account 1 is overdrawn by \$99,999,037.75."

—A Royal Bank automated banking line tells **Fred Brown** of Vancouver, B.C. he is overdrawn. His cheque for \$9.15 comes through as \$60,000,009.15. The bank apologized.

Land ho! South Pole ahead.

While many senior high school students plan school break as a hot beach Mecca, **Mike Mills**, 16, of St. John's, Nfld., spent Christmas plotting for a trip to Antarctica. Actually, it's now summer on the frozen continent, but the 19 students, ages 15 to 18, won't be

would ya like it if someone said *fantasy* Quebecers were the world's greatest complainers, Mr. Michael?



Student explorers' first trip to Antarctica

the environment (see, how the animals survive and how, in the meantime, everything works together," says Mills, who is considering a career in science. Local businesses and a paper mill in Corner Brook helped raise his \$8,000 fee. Green calls the trip "the closest thing to going to another planet without leaving earth." To follow along, <http://tinytim.com/gpspace.ca>.

PASSAGES

Honoured: Giffen swags The Canadian Press athletes of the year awards. Larie Kane, 36, of Charlottesville was named top female in 2000 after a breakthrough season in which she recorded her first three LPGA tournament victories and finished fifth on the LPGA money list. Olympic double-medalist Anne Montminy, a diver from Montreal, finished a

run the role of Mickey in *The French Connection*. Later that year, Roberts played older brother Junior in *Long Day's Journey into Night*. Roberts was a relative O'Neill hero because he shared the hard-living and heavy drinking habits of O'Neill's characters. In 1998, Roberts appeared in O'Neill's *Seafront Festival* in both *Howe's First One* and *The Wives*

films. During the Second World War, he escaped to the United States and later got a radio job at NBC. Eventually, Boyle combined his piano playing and comedy in a one-man Broadway show, *Comedy in Music*. Known as "the unmelancholy Drunk," he conducted many of the world's finest orchestras later in life. He died of natural causes at age 91, in his home in Greenwich, Conn.

Died: Harry DeWolf, 57, was Canada's most decorated naval officer. He earned fame by sinking or damaging 16 German ships while fighting in the English Channel in 1914. During the Second World War, DeWolf was at the helm of Canada's most famous warship, HMCS *Haida*, and would later command the first aircraft carrier; he became chief of naval staff in 1956. DeWolf died of heart failure, in Ottawa.

Died: Randolph A. Heist became chairman of his family's media empire in 1973, just one year before his daughter Patricia Heist was the victim of a highly publicized kidnapping by the *Sydney Morning Herald's* Sydney-based Army Horn, who was the last surviving son of newspaper magnate William Randolph Hearst, remained chairman of Hearst Corp. until 1996. He died at 85, after suffering a stroke, in New York City.

Died: Billy Barry's small cottage and stable talent earned him a place in Hollywood. The three-foot, 10-inch American actor's career spanned seven decades. He made his first feature, *His Old Man's Boy*, and worked in film, television and on Broadway into the early 1990s. He played the old brother-in-law Mickey Rooney in

Mickey McGuire—a series of short films in the 1930s and '40s. He also starred in the 1960s TV series *Billy Barty Big Show*. In 1957, Barry formed Little People of America in support of those born with dwarfism; he later formed a foundation to assist those he referred to as "little people." He died at 76, of heart failure, in Los Angeles.

Died: Former lieutenant-governor Gordon Roy, who was born in England and moved to Montreal, worked his way up the military rank to become commander of the Canadian land forces in 1959. Roy was deputy commander of the Canadian Airborne Regiment during its troubled 1993-1995 mission to Somalia. Roy retired in 1995 prior to an inquiry that found he exercised poor leadership during the Somalia affair. On Dec. 15, while working as a special advisor on land mines to the Canadian ambassador in Ottawa, Roy, 57, was involved in a car crash. He died at a Ottawa hospital after eight days in a coma.

Married: At Silvio Galle in Scotland, pop singer Madonna, 42, wed British filmmaker Guy Ritchie, 38. The couple, who have a three-month-old son, Rocco, celebrated their son's christening and their nuptials with family and friends—including Gwyneth Paltrow, Rupert Everett and Sting.

Fired: A miserable first half of the NHL season saw Florida Panthers coach Terry Murray and general manager Bryan Murray short jobs last week. The brothers, from Shawville, Que., were dropped after the NHL team had won only six of 16 games, and appeared unlikely to make the playoffs.



Anthony Wilson-Smith

Life in the big House

If there is one lesson in politics that he would never forget, Jean Chrétien used to say, it is the importance of parliamentary democracy. As a backbencher in the mid-1960s, he was chosen by Lester Pearson to serve in this role as the prime minister and later as the finance minister. Chrétien regarded this as a great learning experience, and an important stepping stone to the cabinet. That was the message he delivered to caucus members who did not become part of his first cabinet in 1993. Ride your time, he told them, knowing that he would watch parliamentary sessions especially closely with an eye to reminding them in his first cabinet shuffle. Many threw themselves into that task enthusiastically—and did so until the day in 1996 when he replaced them all at once.

Since then, we haven't heard much from the PM about the indispensability of parliamentary democracy—at least the advice to giving MPs access to an evening of the country. In Chrétien's Liberal party, as with the Progressive Conservatives before them, and the Pierre Trudeau Liberals before them, the job of backbenchers also came up, and with the way they're treated. The manner by which MPs rise in Parliament to ask questions is strictly regulated by a combination of tradition, the whims of the Speaker of the House and the discretion of the whip of each party, in concert with the leader. For all its civility as a question period is an extremely structured process, with moves mapped out well in advance.

Similarly, few people outside opposing politics understand the rigid election system that keeps MPs in cabinet—and which often has little to do with ability or suitability to a specific portfolio. Every cabinet case has a representative focus in every position is possible, with attention also paid to ethnicity, gender, linguistic ability—and, while white as it is, such considerations as whether they supported the PM or Paul Martin in the 1999 leadership race. (Frederic on MP from the Ottawa area, for example, you might as well forget it.) John Mulcahy has the cabinet seat for that region even up, and he's not going anywhere soon. He's a low-key guy and a team player, so he became one of the odd ducks up, such as Bill Field, 1999 plan to secure the comfort of Canada's first NHL team. But MPs who cause discomfort in the Prime Minister's Office after trading cabinet may never get that, no matter their qualifications. Irwin Cotler, the MP from Pierre Trudeau's old Quebec Royal riding, should be a shoe-in, purely as recognition of the Montreal Jewish community's longstanding support for the Libs, and especially because of his distinguished career as a jurist, professor and human-rights activist. But he broke with the Liberals' position on Middle Eastern issues during the election campaign, and that may keep him out when a shuffle takes place, likely in June.

For most of the newly elected, or re-elected, 172 Liberal MPs, then, the outlook for the next mandate is depressingly clear. If they are victorious, and haven't reached cabinet, they are unlikely to get there under the present PM. If they are not, they can join the back of the line—unless they are prime candidates, like Dr. Stephen Owen, the former provincial deputy minister who managed, against great odds, to win a seat in British Columbia. And it's not easy, from Chrétien's point of view, why he wouldn't want to change things much. He has a fresh new mandate, an iron grip on caucus, enough MPs to push through any legislation he wants—and the real decision-making power is central in a very group of mostly non-elected officials in and around the Prime Minister's Office, most of whom he has known for decades.

Still, the PM has some political enemies, so it is unlikely he is unaware of some disturbing trends, including a rising caucus, a Parliament divided by regions, plummeting overall voter numbers, and the fact that only about one in five of those who did vote chose the Liberals. Chrétien, a keen sports fan, might take a cue from that field: the reigning power in sports makes up rules whenever they derive from support dwindling. Therefore, many things the PM could do to harder involve his caucus—and Canadians—without getting into the messy business of constitutional reform. One is to encourage more private members bills, as individual MPs could directly create legislation on occasion.

Another opportunity: comes this month, when MPs elect a new Speaker. Once not in cabinet, the PM has no business telling him or her how to conduct business. But believe this, he could say he would welcome a House of Commons in which backbenchers speak more often with more freedom. One candidate, someone-inevitably Liberal Dan McGuckie, has said he would run the House that way. Chrétien could make clear it wouldn't be the end of the world if MPs backed McGuckie, or someone else with a similar idea.

In short, Chrétien could take a lesson from Scott Bowman, the renowned backbencher who is the youngest star in NHL history. Some years back, Bowman said, he realized the game and players had changed, and his choice was to change with them, or be left behind. By training and adapting, he found new wind in his 60s. Chrétien began in 1993 with effort that key gestures that won over people migrating from Martin's approach—after he put their man in finance—no members of the press gallery, who found him then to be friendly and approachable. Now, he doesn't need to mend fences with anyone—not Martin's people, the grumbling backbenchers, and certainly not members of the media. How generous he would look if he did exactly that.



Kane, left, with breakthrough year on the pro golf circuit, she surpassed Olympic star for top honors

dream season in voting by sports editors across the country. Then, Mike White, 30, of Bingham's, Ont., got the nod ahead of Olympic gold-medalist Brian Whitfield (initialism) of Kingston, Ont., and Daniel Lupa (fervently sounding) of Vancouver in the top male athlete. With capped study PGA Tour season with spectacular play at the Presidents' Cup and then a victory at the American Express championship in Spain.

Died: American stage and screen actor Jason Roberts, 78, was last known for his Broadway interpretations of Eugene O'Neill plays. In 1956, the Chicago native

the Canadian critic complained of his "total American voice." Roberts was best supporting actor Oscar for playing Washington Post editor Ben Bradlee in the 1976 Watergate drama, *All the President's Men*, and author David Haysman in 1977's *Julia*. He had film, *Alphaville*, was shot in 1999 while he was battling cancer. Roberts died in hospital in Bridgeport, Conn.

Died: Pianist Victor Borge made his concert debut at age 8 in Copenhagen. He was on track to become a concert pianist when he began to focus his energy on comedy instead—performing in nightclubs and acting in

To Catch a Killer

A murder witness has found that heroism does not pay

By John Nicol in Bramptonville

It was cold in the air-segmented icy streets of Bramptonville, Ont., 45 km east of Toronto. But passenger Kristine Hills' shiver came from another time, another life. On Aug. 4, 1998, Hills witnessed a grisly murder, and this recent visit was the first time in nearly 2½ years she had returned to the scene of the crime so embedded in her psyche. The 45-year-old bookkeeper recalled the trauma that prompted her to open the door to the ground-floor hallway of the eight-story building where she worked. She saw the killing furies of Robert Appleton, then 28, drawing a knife onto his police former girlfriend, Jennifer Copithorne. Hills rushed back to her office to grab something to hit the assailant, but before she returned, a co-worker noticed him escaping through the back parking lot. Duffing her clumsy sandals, Hills chased Appleton barefoot, stopping cars, telling them about the man with a knife up ahead. Two young women in a van took up the pursuit, and with the help of others, directed police to Appleton as he was about to escape down a ravine. Within 14 minutes of the attack, police nabbed the suspect. But it was too late for 26-year-old Copithorne: 19 stab wounds, many to vital organs, had taken her life.

Appleton was convicted of second-degree murder and sentenced in November, 1999, to life in prison, with no possibility of parole for 22 years. All along, the case has been overshadowed by a more high-profile killing: the same day, two women stabbed an undercover Toronto policeman and their subsequent arrest and trial received extensive coverage. The Copithorne murder would likely have remained a local item in the bedroom community of 20,000 if not for subsequent events. A trauma therapist whose police rang

grand Hills visit diagnosed post-traumatic stress disorder, and recommended she not return to work. Immediately, the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board of Ontario began paying her benefits. Last September, however, her lawyer told her the might have to repay the \$69,000 she has accrued so far from the provincial agency. Her former employer, Mario Veltri, a millionaire land developer and landlord, had filed an objection in February to the \$780 annual income in his WSIB claim. In a letter to the provincial agency, he wrote that the "tragic event" was not "in any way related to Ms. Hills' employment with our Company." But Hills has never doubted her actions. "I did what I did because it was the right thing to do," she said. "What's happened with workers' compensation is wrong."

The events began to unfold when Appleton, an out-of-work bodybuilder, could not accept the breakup of his 16-month-long relationship with Copithorne, a Trent University English and anthropology graduate who had been trying to get him psychiatric help. Although concerned about his suicide threats, the trail to case him out of her life. Then, the harassment became too much. On July 12, 1998, she called 911 asking how to get a restraining order on her former boyfriend. "I'm afraid of him, I really am," she told the 911 operator. "He's just crazy." Three weeks later, Appleton accused her as she was on her way to work as a sales at National Trust, one of the occupants of the Veltri building where Hills worked.

Hills had paid a high price for her lessons. She had tried various forms of therapy and drugs to cope with her resulting depression, anger and fear. She has talked to the paramedics who tried to save Copithorne, and visited the evidence room at the courthouse to see the murder weapon that she had described so accurately at Appleton's preliminary hearing. Hills said missing to the police lot in December with a Montreal reporter did not bother her as much as she expected. Still, she could clearly recall the lot being encircled with yellow police tape—and her shock when she learned that Copithorne had died. Although police, paramedics and her



Appleton leaving court, Nov. 5, 1999, nabbed



Hills revisits the parking lot where she pursued the killer in 1998. "I did what I did because it was the right thing to do."

own reason tell her otherwise, the still feels guilty that she did not save the killer's life. "I saw a young girl with a knife in her," says Hills. "I saw her stabbed twice. I heard her scream for help, and I couldn't help her. I was two feet away from her."

Hills, originally from Moose Jaw, Sask., returned to work a week later, but found she could not concentrate. Two days later, she went into the hallway to say a quiet goodbye to Jennifer at the spot where she was slain, and returned to her desk crying. Hills recalls Veltri asking her "Why are you crying? You didn't kill her. Her mother didn't cry at the funeral. Why are you crying?" Later that day, her trauma counselor told her not to go back to work. She moved to the countryside, but she still gets flashbacks and has been unable to return to any sort of work. "I'll be sitting home safe and it will come back," she says. Every so often she calls the prison to make sure Appleton is still safely behind bars.

Hills' disabling reaction to the murder is not uncommon, says W.D. Brooks, a clinical psychologist now based in Ontario. The American Psychiatric Association has officially recognized PTSD since 1980, but war veterans have long known its symptoms. First World War soldiers, for instance, suffered from "shell shock." Meanwhile, a growing body of research has found that witnesses, as well as victims of traumatic events, including rapes, assaults and gruesome accidents, can also suffer from PTSD. The best-known case in recent years, notes Brooks, is that of Lt. Gen. Romeo Dallaire, who, while representing the United Nations in Rwanda in 1994, witnessed the genocide of 800,000 Tutsis. "And there are people who

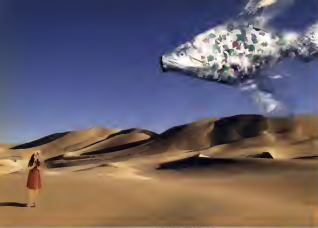
deal with the Somalia crash or Werny mass disaster who aren't functioning as well as they'd like us," said Brooks. "Two to three years is nothing when dealing with such a disaster."

For Veltri, the whole case hinges on the fact it was not part of Hills' employment to witness the murder in the hallway, or chase the murderer down the stairs. Although he was not in his office the day of the murder, he showed *Weekend Update* where the events took place. Veltri brought on a wall to emphasize what separated the space where Kristine Hills worked and where Appleton murdered Copithorne. "I've been paying for this claim that has nothing to do with me," said Veltri, 66. "It was not in my office."

Hills acknowledges WSIB regulations give Veltri the right to appeal. But if he wins his case, she says, the message will be that she should have run unopposed and listened to someone's advice. "I was brought up to help people and to try to do right," she says. "But the difference between right and wrong doesn't seem to matter as much. Are you supposed to think about how something will affect you before you act about your neighbor?"

The WSIB tribunal is expected to rule this summer on whether Hills deserves compensation, and whether Veltri's premiums should have increased by 30 per cent, to \$8,562 a year. But for now, Hills' main focus is on trying to get better.

"There's no way I can go back to accounting, to stress, to information and concentration," she says. "Every time I sit down, I hear Jennifer's screams. I'm lying somewhere out there there's a job for me." ■



EXPERIENCE



The world through digital eyes.



LG 15.5-inch Monitor
The world's smallest
wide and tall, not just
the screen but the



LG LCD Projector
1000 lumens, 1000 ANSI
lumen, 1000 ANSI lumen,
1000 ANSI lumen, 1000 ANSI lumen



LG LCD Computer Monitor
15.5" Screen, 15.5" TFT Display
15.5" Screen, 15.5" TFT Display
15.5" Screen, 15.5" TFT Display

People are born with the ability to experience 12 million shades of color and frequencies from 20 to 20,000 Hz. Sadly, traditional technology has failed to maximize this subtle sensation and deliver range of sensory stimuli that we are capable of appreciating. But now, LG Electronics has extended the boundaries of color and audio reproduction by taking digital design to a new level. We invite you to experience the results at your LG dealer today. www.lg.ca



Digitally yours

TB carrier launches suit

An immigrant from the Dominican Republic with a deadly strain of drug-resistant tuberculosis is suing Ontario for allowing him to enter Canada in the first place. Caspian Berenguer, 37, lived in Hamilton for almost a year, coming into contact with nearly 1,500 Ontarians under the Citizenship and Immigration Canada clerical list to enter Canada in December, 1999. Berenguer, his wife, Hilary Lema, and two friends who also became infected launched the \$500,000 lawsuit against immigration officials and doctors, claiming they "knew or ought to have known he would be a danger to public health."

A very special holiday

B.C. Premier Ujjal Dosanjh was treated like a visiting head of state during a holiday trip to India, including his home village of Dosanjh Kalan in Punjab. Dosanjh, the first Indo-Canadian to head a provincial government, was given the use of an Indian military helicopter, met with Indian prime minister and senior cabinet members, and signed an agreement of "general cooperation" with the Punjab government. But his itinerary had not been released in reference to Benazir Bhutto, prompting critics to claim he breached protocol. Dosanjh said there was no attempt to make an official media trip. "I didn't know these were going to be that many meetings," Dosanjh said, adding, "I'm not apologizing for governing and highlighting British Columbia and Canada at my own expense and on my own time."

Water operations untrained

Nearly one-quarter, or 2,081 of 8,525 people licensed to run Ontario's 645 drinking-water plants may lack the formal education and training requirements for these jobs, according to figures from the province's ministry of the environment. Licensing of the operators became mandatory in 1993, but those who had at least one year's experience did not have to take any tests to be certified. Training of water-plant workers has emerged as a key issue at the inquiry into the E. coli outbreak in Walkerton, Ont., last May, which killed seven and made 2,000 ill.

Kovals end their flight from the law

Fugitives: Ron and Lorea Koval, founders of the very King's Health Centre in downtown Toronto, spent the holidays in separate jails after naming themselves in on Dec. 23. Warned of charges of defrauding at least \$100 million from various companies, the couple travelled 1,215 km by land from Savannah, Ga., to the Canada-U.S. border at Niagara Falls. Exhausted from 2 1/2 months on the run, they walked across the Rainbow Bridge into Canada Customs office, carrying a suitcase filled with \$1.3 million in U.S. currency. They were taken into police custody and transferred to Toronto. The couple, who have a bail hearing this week, are being held on two counts of fraud and a third charge involving a major Canadian bank.

The Kovals, both 49, are principal officers of Business Acceptance Capital Corp., a medical equipment leasing company that they set up and managed the King's Health Centre. The push right-flow clinic, claimed to enhance patients and afford a mix of public and private health services, it started losing money almost as soon as it opened in the summer of 1995-1996. It was only after the Kovals disappeared in mid-October, however, that police found evidence of fraud.



Left: Ron Koval in separate police car; right: Lorea Koval in separate police car.

The Kovals, both 49, are principal officers of Business Acceptance Capital Corp., a medical equipment leasing company that they set up and managed the King's Health Centre. The push right-flow clinic, claimed to enhance patients and afford a mix of public and private health services, it started losing money almost as soon as it opened in the summer of 1995-1996. It was only after the Kovals disappeared in mid-October, however, that police found evidence of fraud.

a second motel room in Myrtle Beach, S.C., after laying false trails to such places as Cones River and Portman, turned themselves in just four days after Toronto police demanded that their 24-year-old daughter, Amy, surrender for questioning.

Barrington denied that they threatened to arrest Amy so as to lure the Kovals home, maintaining that the persons were simply "locally deluded" and "in the end of their rope."

Bus crash probed

The police role in a bizarre accident on the Trans-Canada Highway in northwestern Ontario is being investigated. A passenger on a Greyhound bus heard for Toronto on Dec. 23 allegedly grabbed the steering wheel, causing the bus to roll twice as it plunged down an embankment about 100 km west of Thunder Bay. Six of

the 53 passengers onboard were injured, one critically. Passengers and police officers had put the crash on the bus in Ignace, Ont., about 200 km west of Thunder Bay, worried then he appeared mentally unstable and he should be left alone. The Special Investigation Unit, which probes inquiry or death in incidents involving police in Ontario, expects an inquiry to take about three weeks.



Peter C. Newman

The End of Canada?

Measures to expand free trade will inevitably lead to the end of first our dollar—and then our sovereignty

Free trade, the issue that dominated Canadian politics during the past two decades, was remarkably absent in the recent election campaign, which concentrated on dinosaurs, Quebec voter habits and Dennis Day. At the dawn of a new year, we are faced with historic trade measures that may devastate an economic revolution significantly affecting the three national entities that share this continent—note more profoundly than Canada. (The Americans possess no match disposable clout that their sovereignty is unassailable; the Mexicans have the advantage of a distinctive culture.)

The unusual confluence of the continent's two of newly elected political leaders assuming power within a few months of each other may be an accident of history. But their agendas, hidden and otherwise, threaten this country's future in dramatic ways, and are bound to turn the trade issue into one of the major political dilemmas of 2001.

The controversy will be fuelled by an unprecedented meeting of 34 Western Hemisphere leaders, to be held in Quebec City in late April, to draft a treaty for a Free Trade Area of the Americas. Because any trading arrangement (in this global quadrant is bound to be dominated by the United States, such an agreement would in reality become the modern version of the Monroe Doctrine of 1823. Named after U.S. president James Monroe, it was a bold attempt to define the Americas as an exclusive sphere of U.S. influence. That imperialist impulse was aimed at giving Washington economic and political sway over anything that moved between Alaska and the frozen edge of El Estero.

Indeed, in the Canadian Arctic, to Cape Horn, the wind-swept tip of South America. This treaty, despite its multinational roots, will have a similar effect.

Few of the proponents or opponents of the body concerned, but relatively innocuous, 1989 Free Trade Agreement, signed between prime minister Brian Mulroney and president Ronald Reagan, realized that this was the beginning, not the



end, of a long process. Historically, such pacts almost always evolve in directions far removed from their original intent.

Countries that agree to lower mutual tariffs, which is what the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement was essentially about, inevitably become caught up in an escalation of these permissive arrangements. This insensible process began with a Free

Trade Area becoming a Customs Union, which significantly widens its scope to include goods from third countries. We learned down that path when Mulroney signed the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) with then-President George Bush (the older, smarter one) and the then-president of Mexico, Carlos Salinas. The momentum currently building up would escalate NAFTA, which went into effect on Jan. 1, 1994, into a Common Market. That's a Customs Union that integrates the economies of its partners to include the free movement of labour and capital.

Ever since Vincent Fox (Quebec) won the Mexican election last summer, he has been advocating such a pact, and neither Washington nor Ottawa has opposed his advance. At the example of the European Common Market situation, this arrangement has within it the built-in impetus to turn into an Economic Union. That's a Common Market, plus a pledge by member states to coordinate and eventually merge all of their economic (and not just trade) policies. Out of those intentions, Europe is now rapidly advancing towards Economic Integration, which is an Economic Union, plus the unification of not just monetary and fiscal policies, but social measures as well.

Few are advocating a similar arrangement on the side of the Atlantic. Yet, but even the move to a Common Market, which implies an eventual common North American currency, would mean nothing less than the disappearance of Canada as an effective, independent nation. A North American Common Market would mean the free movement of people and money throughout the continent. The Canadian dollar would disappear as part of this process, which would mean that we could never again control either our fiscal or monetary policies. We would, in effect, become the northern district of Washington's Federal Reserve Board. Canadians would be free to leave and find work, anywhere in the United States, as would Mexicans who wish to move to Canada, where they would compete for many of our blue-collar jobs at half the going rate. Such a deal would place this country in the jaws of a magnet that would remove whatever is left of our founding career linkages and rewire our railways, highways, truck routes, telecommunications systems, as well as requiring the building of "iron-energy pipelines," which sound suspiciously like carriers of Canadian water to U.S. destinations.

Even now, Canada's economic dependence on the United States is overwhelming. Some 87 per cent of our exports—goods worth nearly \$1 billion—flow daily across the 40th parallel. At the same time, our industries are becoming U.S.-owned at an alarming rate, while a quarter of the leading Canadian companies on the Toronto Stock Exchange currently report their earnings in U.S. dollars.

Already, powerful American think-tanks, such as the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, are recommending the disappearance of the Canada-U.S. border. "It is our generation," concludes their July study *Self-Governance* at

the border, "that, substantively at least, the U.S.-Canada border is likely to disappear before any politician finds the courage to negotiate its removal." Mulroney, the author of the original Free Trade Agreement, has openly advocated the borderless option. "I would certainly support getting rid of all this stuff at the border, which inhibits progress and the free movement of goods, services and people," he declared in an interview last year. More significant, the Business Council on National Issues, which gets what it wants, has supported the notion of a seamless border that would allow the free movement of goods and services in both directions.

In this context, it was no accident that Jean Chretien chose to give his first speech as the country's

newly crowned Prime Minister by unexpectedly appearing at the World Summit on the Americas and Culture, meeting in Ottawa, four days after the election. Instead of stressing the obvious point that in a global economy, it's only the vigour of any nation's indigenous culture that can guarantee its independence, he emphasized exactly the opposite vision. "Some people," he told the delegates, "think that the American culture is a problem. It's not a problem. Don't be afraid to be citizens of the world."

That declaration was particularly surprising, since Chretien is well aware how tough it is to wring any concessions from the Americans. He won his first majority in the 1993 election, partly by pledging to reverse NAFTA, negotiated under the Mulroney government, so that its provisions would be tilted more in Canada's favour. One of his main attacks was on a secretive provision that allowed the Americans to challenge against Canada if we adopted any measures to strengthen our culture. That key demand and Chretien's other substantive requests were rejected out of hand by the Americans.

The specifics of the debate over Canada joining a North American Common Market have yet to be set. At the moment, no one knows who will speak for Canada. Certainly, the Chretien government has been making loud commercial noises, and the Alliance's conviction that market forces should control national decisions disqualifies them as Canadian nationalists' champions. In truth, there are few independent voices running the barricades, and Mitchell Sharp last May celebrated his 80th birthday.

Ironically, Sharp, former external affairs minister in the Trudeau government, now a senior adviser to Chretien, is one



Schultz, Bush and Mulroney (top row), with their cabinet officials, approving NAFTA, 1992; this marked the start of the beginning, not the end, of a long process

We would be the northern district of the U.S. Federal Reserve Board

of the very few Canadian politicians who ever issued a public warning about the long-term impact of free trade. "Free trade," he wrote in a 1972 policy paper, long before such a radical idea was contemplated by any Canadian political party, "leads towards a full customs union and economic union as a matter of internal logic. A Canada-U.S. free trade area would almost certainly do likewise. If that were to happen, Canada would be obliged to seek political union with its superpower neighbour."

That certainly was an opinion shared by one of the most powerful American public figures of the time, George Ball, a former undersecretary of state, and much-honoured-to-remember among Washington's conservative advocates. Predicting the future course of American-Canadian relations, he wrote in his 1968 book, *The Discipline of Power*: "Sooner or later, commercial integration will bring

about free movement of all goods back and forth across our long borders and when this occurs or even before it does, it will become unambiguously clear that countries with economies so intricately interwoven must also have free movement of the other vital factors of production—capital, services and labour. The result will inevitably be substantial economic integration, which will require far in full realization a progressively expanding area of common political decision."

Those long-ago echoes will shape the debate that will eventually dominate Canadian politics in the months and years ahead. While the topic of the debate will be a new North American trading arrangement, its substance will be the fate of our economy, the destiny of our natural resources and the opportunities for our children. Nothing short of Canada's independence will be at stake. ■

We're the most incredible financial site on the web. Probably because we're the most credible.

Credibility: It is earned. After thorough hardwork and years of dependability. So how did we earn our credibility? Four words - The Globe and Mail. Canada's most authoritative business news is also at the heart of Canada's most credible and powerful financial web site - globeinvestor.com. But don't take our word for it go there. Your

globeinvestor.com

For more financial information, click here.

Frustrated by long hours and difficult conditions, many doctors and nurses are rethinking their careers

At the Breaking Point

BY MARK NICHOLS

Five years ago, Susan Jane Ward was an emergency-room physician in Cape Town, weary of treating victims of the crime wave that has gripped post-independence South Africa. Now, the 38-year-old mother of three young children is a family physician in Garberr, Mani, a community of about 2,000, around 200 km west of Winnipeg. Ward and her husband, Desmond Murray, "love the town," she says, "and we're so grateful to Canada for taking us in and allowing us to live in peace." But her joy has been blighted by a feud with the regional health authority. The key issue: Ward's refusal to sign a contract requiring her to be on call every other night. As well, the health authority has told Ward—who is expecting another baby in April—that she is not eligible for paid maternity leave. "I want to settle down here," says Ward. "But I'm not prepared to work under these conditions—the way we're treated, you'd think the health authorities had doctors coming out of their ears."

Far from it. Canada's \$95-billion-a-year health-care system seems to be short of nearly everything these days—beds for patients, high-tech diagnostic equipment and other hardware and, above all, people. With most parts of the country facing shortages of doctors, nurses and medical technicians, provincial cancer agencies in the past year and a half cut more than 2,500 patients to the United States for radiation treatment (page 25). Other Canadians are waiting longer for operations and finding it harder to see a family physician or a specialist. In Manitoba, says Dr. Loewine Hildebrand, president of the provincial medical association, people often wait 10 weeks to see a cancer specialist. "This province is supposed to be a leader in terms of shorter waiting times," says Hildebrand. "But if that's the best, it's pretty sad."

With shortages driving up stress levels, some doctors and even more nurses are quitting to do other work or emigrating to better paid jobs in the United States. Dr. Heidi Oetzel, 40, a family physician in the Vancouver suburb of Coquitlam, says she regularly



Oetzel: "It's not going to take much for me to think it's time to jump"

with 12-hour days to see between 25 and 30 patients, and finds a "nonexistent sense of frustration." In the office she shares with three other physicians, says Oetzel, "we have people phoning every day looking for a doctor, but we just can't take on any more." Now, she is toying with the notion of joining medicine to run a bed-and-breakfast on land she owns 10 km northwest of Vancouver. "It's not going to take much more dissatisfaction in the system for me to think it's time to jump," says Oetzel.

Experts say the malady afflicting Canada's health-care system may get worse—and then show signs of improvement, perhaps two or three years from now. One hopeful sign: after the deflating, austerity of the mid-1990s, the provinces are pouring money into the system again. In recent months, British Columbia announced \$180 million in new spending, Alberta allocated nearly \$1 billion and Ontario \$156 million. And in September, Ottawa and the provinces agreed on a new revenue-sharing deal that will boost federal transfer payments from the current \$15.5 billion a year to \$21 billion in 2005-2006. "The cutting philosophy is gone," says Manitoba health minister, Doug Chomak. "The building philosophy is back."

At the same time, the provinces have begun to tackle personnel shortages by expanding training programs for nurses and doctors. With Alberta, Ontario and Quebec leading the way, five provinces have taken steps to create 191 new undergraduate seats in medical schools over a two-year period, adding projected five-year enrolments in Canada for 2001-2002 to almost 1,800. Governments have also announced funding for 117 new postgraduate places in medical schools—a move that could lure experienced physicians home and allow more foreign-trained doctors to qualify to practice in Canada. Dr. Peter Barrett, president of the Canadian Medical Association, calls the steps "encouraging—I truly believe governments are waking up to the fact that we don't have enough physicians."

The current crisis also has been converging forces. Spending cutbacks pounded the system as it strove to cope with an increasingly elderly and disease-prone popula-

tion. At the same time, Canadian health care sits at the middle of the transition from a hospital-based system to a community-based model. With the provinces struggling to build long-term-care centres and other community services, chronically ill and elderly patients with nowhere else to go still occupy crowded beds, often forcing hospitals to lodge seriously ill patients in hallways—or run ambulances away.

Adding to the strain of a system at the breaking point is the country's desperate need for new diagnostic equipment, including magnetic resonance imaging machines that cost more than \$2 million each. To make a start at remedying the problem, Ontario will give the province \$1 billion over two years for new high-tech hardware. But Don Lee, a London, Ont., neurologist, estimates that Canada needs to spend about \$2 billion just to upgrade or replace X-ray equipment, apart from investing in other needed equipment.

With the plans already under way, a turnaround may be on the horizon, but for now Canadians are too often left with the feeling that the system simply isn't working. Valerie Struck, a nurse's aide in Coquitlam, was in severe pain after osteoarthritis destroyed the cartilage in her left hip. Physicians decided she needed an artificial hip, but because of backlogs in the system, Struck, 46, faced a wait of eight months. She decided to pay out of her own pocket to have the surgery performed in Bellingham, Wash., in October.



Busy moving station at Toronto General: not enough doctors or nurses in the queue

NHL, surgeon. In other cases, a shortage of operating room nurses can lead to elective surgery being postponed. "We'll have a patient waiting to go into the operating room," says Dr. David Boase, a surgeon at Montreal General Hospital. "Then, a trauma case comes in and we have to send the other patient home."

At the same time, the dearth of doctors is making it harder for patients to get the medical services they need. In New Brunswick, the provincial medical association estimates that 36,000 visits cannot find a family doctor. Physician shortages are showing up in major cities for the first time. "We've had problems for years keeping physicians in rural and northern areas," says the CMAA's Barrett. "Now, we're hearing of shortages of family doctors in urban areas like Calgary and Montreal."

In Ontario, says Dr. Albert Schermer, president of the

provincial medical association, doctors "are working longer and harder hours rather than turn patients away." Those pressures are being felt across the country, prompting a rash of walk-in surgeries. Presses in Alberta last month found a cancellation of some surgeries as doctors pressed demands for a 22-per-cent pay increase over two years, which they say is needed to attract more physicians to the province. Overstuffed doctors have closed the emergency department in the B.C. community of Cranbrook on several weekends, saying there were no specialists available in the region to fill in for them and keep it open (page 26).

The thinning in the ranks of physicians stems from doctors in the 1980s and early 1990s when provincial officials, convinced that universities were turning out too many doctors, cut back the number of undergraduate openings in medical schools. The result: medical schools graduated 1,577 doctors in 1997, down from 1,835 in 1985. The planners' miscalculation has left Canada increasingly short of family physicians and some specialists. Anesthesiologists, obstetricians, psychiatrists and radiation oncologists, who supervise the treatment of cancer patients, are all in short supply.

HELP WANTED IN THE RADIATION DEPARTMENT

The cancer centre in Saint John, N.B., operates at a hectic pace, treating thousands of patients each year with radiation in the hope of eradicating inoperable tumors. The high-energy radiation is created by halving bomb-shaped devices called linear accelerators, which, ideally, are run by four trained therapists under a doctor's supervision. But the Saint John centre is short of therapists, and has to make do with two or three per machine. Like centres in other parts of the country, Saint John cannot keep up with demand and has to send some patients over the border—in Saint John's case 200 km southwest to Bangor, Me., for treatment costing roughly \$25,000 to \$35,000 per patient. The shortages also make working conditions increasingly tense for therapists. "Even under ideal conditions," says Randy McKnight, the Saint John centre's chief therapist, "cancer care can be a stressful occupation."

Shortages of medical technologists, including laboratory specialists and ultrasound technologists, exist in nearly every part of Canada. But one of the most serious shortages involves specialists in medical radiation—the technologists who operate linear accelerators, magnetic resonance imaging machines and X-ray equipment. Because only-stopped administration did not boost training school enrolments in the mid-1980s, Canada needs hundreds more radiation therapists and doctors soon. MRL and X-ray technology that's out of date.

Enrolments are rising now, but, says Richard Lawson, executive director of the 10,200-member Canadian Association of Medical Radiation Technologists, "it's a vicious circle—as yet, no internships, people have to be taken off medical work. We're at least five years away from solving the problem." In the meantime, stress levels are rising. Radiation therapists do a lot more, says McKnight, than run high-tech equipment. "We take calls from patients asking when they're going to be treated and talk with family members. We get frustrated when we can't handle the human side as well as we should."

M.N.

Meanwhile, fewer foreign-trained doctors are coming here. Only 265 are up for practice in Canada in 1997, down from about 1,300 a year in the late 1980s. To make matters worse, Canada suffers from a chronic doctor drain, with nearly 600 physicians a year going to the United States and other countries. Some Canadian doctors, often lured by their experiences abroad, do return each year—for a net annual cross-border loss of about 250 physicians.

Demographic changes also play a role in physician supply. Doctors, like the population they serve, are getting older, with more than 800 retiring each year. In the coming decade, says Dr. David Hawkins, executive director of the Association of Canadian Medical Colleges, that number will rise rapidly. Unless there is a dramatic increase in the number of doctors trained by 2007, says Hawkins, "for the first time we'll have more doctors retiring than entering the profession."

Simply increasing medical school enrolment would solve the problem. About half of Canada's medical graduates now are women, many of whom are opting for shorter working weeks than their male counterparts. A 1998 study showed that female family doctors worked about 44 hours a week, compared with 53 hours for men. And the men, too, don't want to put in the hours their predecessors did. "Younger male doctors," says Ontario's Schermer, "are not willing to work 80 hours a week, like many of the older physicians who are retiring now."

Unlike the shortage of physicians, the nursing scarcity stems largely from a triple factors—the changing curricula and hospital closures of the mid-1990s. That restructuring drove nurses out of work across the country, prompting thousands to migrate to jobs in the United States and other countries, or to quit nursing. Reflecting the dismal job prospects, nursing school enrolments plummeted and the number of graduates fell to 5,500 in 1998 from 7,200 three years earlier.

Working conditions for nurses have worsened. With hospitals strapped for cash, half of Canadian nurses now work on a part-time or casual basis, with fewer benefits than full-time nurses. And hospitals have economized by reducing the number of nurse's aides and support staff, forcing nurses to add some of those functions to their normal duties. Candidates are hard on the nurses, and less than perfect for their patients. "Ideally," says Mary-Elise Jones, president of the 110,000-member Canadian Nurses Association, "nurses and patients get to know each other in a way that helps patients recover." With fewer nurses and heavier working conditions, that isn't possible any longer, and that affects the health of patients.

Given the time it may take to train medical staff—from four to 12 years for physicians and 20 to 35 years for nurses—what are the prospects for a quick cure of the sickness in Canadian health care? Despite the air of crisis, most experts say the system will survive and return to good health. By increasing overseas hiring drives for physicians, and using expatriate physicians home, Canada should be able to get by, albeit barely, until enlarged medical school class starts graduating in four years. Already, says the CMAA's Barrett, new funding in the system and stepped-up medical school programs are boosting morale among physicians. "Because until now, it looked like absolutely nothing was being done to address the problem."

With more money going into health care, says Michael Deane, chairman of the Ontario-based Canadian Institute for Health Information, improvements in pay and working conditions should attract more young Canadians to nursing. "With all this money," says Deane, "there's bound to be a market response." Improvements will not happen quickly. But over the next few years, the sort of new government spending—for training programs, for MRI and X-ray machines for longer-term care facilities and community services to ease the pressure on hospitals—could help breathe new life into an ailing health-care system. ☐

Strains on the Front Lines

A small B.C. community sees some of the most dramatic protests by frustrated doctors

BY BRIAN BERGMAN in Cranbrook

For the embattled doctors of Cranbrook, the year just ended will long be remembered in the *anno domini*. In the space of less than 12 months, the community of 20,000, nestled in the scenic Purcell mountain range of southwestern British Columbia, lost several key specialist physicians, adding to the burden of the overworked doctors left behind. For many, the strain is showing. "My wife tells me she has never seen me so grumpy," says Bill Don, 56, an obstetrician-gynecologist in Cranbrook for the past 25 years who is now looking for work elsewhere. "It gets depressing because you don't see any daylight." General surgeon Abdul Aleem, 57, a 14-year Cranbrook veteran, is equally grim. "I have four children, three of them now in university, and I have not seen them grow up," says Aleem. "The only other general surgeon here has a young family and he wants to spend more time with them. I don't blame him; I should have done the same thing."

Across Canada, physicians serving rural areas share many of these stresses. Too many long nights on call with too little compensation. Too few incentives to recruit and retain an adequate complement of specialists. But in Cranbrook, frustrations are greatly exacerbated by conditions in the local hospital. Doctors describe Cranbrook Regional as chronically underfunded and frequently ill-equipped. Poor shakes his head at the memory of a piece of laparoscopic equipment breaking inside a patient's abdomen. "We said, 'This has to be replaced,'" he recalls. "The next thing you know, it's here fixed and it's back. But it's 15 years old and should be gone." Surgeries are held together with duct tape. Surgeons have had to stop because equipment wouldn't

work and there were no backup instruments. "In the 21st century," says orthopedic surgeon Alex Chin, 36, "we should not be operating this way."

The doctors' grievances—exacerbated by an equally hampered nursing staff—have produced some of the most drastic protests on the front lines of Canadian health care. They started in August, when most of the 25 specialists in the Cranbrook area declined to perform elective surgeries or do routine calls for 12 days—though they continued to respond to life- and limb-threatening emergencies. In September, they again withdrew their services for nearly three weeks, for the same period, the community's 27 general practitioners resigned their hospital privileges. In early October, the specialists announced they would reduce their on-call time to the point that there was no coverage on two out of every five weekends.

Initially, Cranbrook's family doctors agreed to keep the community's only emergency department open. But by late November, they decided to withdraw their services on the weekends that specialists were absent, forcing the hospital to close its ER on these days. "This was not a job action, this was survival," says Timmy Farrell, a family physician and head of the emergency department. "We just felt it was no longer a safe situation for our patients."

How did a Canadian community get to this point? Cranbrook physicians trace the downward spiral to the departure of the community's only



Farrell: 'It was no longer safe for our patients'

Chair: 'In the 21st century, we should not be operating this way'

"When you are younger, you can do the long call," shrugs Wiebe. "But as you get older, it takes a toll."

As part of the agreement that saw Cranbrook doctors return to work this summer, they were approved from the B.C. health ministry to commission an independent review of the Cranbrook Regional Hospital. That review, completed by Calgary health-care consultant Doug Smith in November, called for an immediate infusion of cash to upgrade the hospital site and equipment and to hire enough specialist physicians for the facility to operate as a true regional referral centre. In early December, the province's hugely unpopular NDP government—which must call an election by this spring—pledged to make that happen.

In recent months, Cranbrook's physicians have made common cause with Roger Walker, chief executive officer of the health council that runs the hospital, as they co-opted on the independent review and pushed the government to address the region's health-care woes. But that doesn't mean the two sides always agree on tactics. The physicians maintained

that they could only force the government to act by withdrawing their services. But Walker says that approach was simply unacceptable. "I understood their frustration," he adds, "but I cannot condone putting patients at risk."

Walker also sent larger appeals to play. When Cranbrook physicians withdrew their services in August and September, he wrote, rural doctors were making job announcements in other parts of the province to highlight long-standing grievances over on-call compensation and physician shortages. "There is no love lost between the doctors and the NDP," says Walker. "I'm absolutely convinced that is a major effort to topple the government."

Ross Dawson, president of the medical staff at the Cranbrook hospital, disputes that assertion. "We've tried to be as transparent as possible," he says. "But the fact is the NDP have been in power for nine years and the health-care system is a mess." Dawson then adds with a chuckle: "Besides, I don't think the NDP needs any help in being toppled."

Those differences aside, all involved are looking forward to putting a health system behind them. With promises of better equipment and more physicians in hand—pledges doctors hope will survive any change in the provincial government—Cranbrook's medical staff and hospital board are working together to ensure the emergency department stays open at all times. They also express cautious optimism for the future. "I'm feeling more hopeful than I have in a long time," says Dawson. "But there is still an awful lot of hard shovelling ahead."

Those differences aside, all involved are looking forward to putting a health system behind them. With promises of better equipment and more physicians in hand—pledges doctors hope will survive any change in the provincial government—Cranbrook's medical staff and hospital board are working together to ensure the emergency department stays open at all times. They also express cautious optimism for the future. "I'm feeling more hopeful than I have in a long time," says Dawson. "But there is still an awful lot of hard shovelling ahead."

Those differences aside, all involved are looking forward to putting a health system behind them. With promises of better equipment and more physicians in hand—pledges doctors hope will survive any change in the provincial government—Cranbrook's medical staff and hospital board are working together to ensure the emergency department stays open at all times. They also express cautious optimism for the future. "I'm feeling more hopeful than I have in a long time," says Dawson. "But there is still an awful lot of hard shovelling ahead."

'I Wanted to Help People'

BY MARK NICHOLS

It is 7 a.m. on a frigid December day, and the emergency department at Cornwall General Hospital is under pressure. Half a dozen patients lie on stretchers in rooms and hallways because there are no beds available. Christiane Godard, a critical-care nurse who has worked two 12-hour shifts in the preceding three days, arrives at the hospital after being called in for an extra four-hour shift because of the backlog. Backlogs these days are not unusual. One reason is a shortage of family physicians in this industrial city of 47,000 about 400 km east of Toronto. Another is the budget pressures that have reduced the number of beds at Cornwall General from about 200 a decade ago to 88.

Today, Godard is looking after patients with a variety of illnesses—several suffer from congestive heart failure, there is a cancer patient with pneumonia and several elderly patients with chronic lung problems. Godard begins work with the familiar feeling of not being able to do enough with the limited time and resources available. "I wanted to be a nurse so I could help people," she says. "But the way things are now, we can't give patients the care they should be getting, and that bothers me."

Now, Godard's colleagues share her frustration. A decade ago, veterans among them say, it was unheard of for admitted patients to be kept even briefly in the emergency department. Now, long waits are the norm. And along with

where you could calm down and recuperate," says nurse Judy Kyra, who has 23 years at Cornwall General for 23 years. "Now, there aren't any beds."

Administrators at the hospital sympathize with the nurses' complaints. "Right now," says Kim Petronis, a departmental manager, "our nurses only have time for the essentials—they can't give patients the emotional support and personal attention they are entitled to give, and they feel frustrated." The hospital needs more money to hire nurses and reopen beds, adds Petronis. "But we've been running deficits just to stay at our present staffing levels. We keep hearing that governments are willing up to health-care needs—but we'll believe it when we see it."

With conditions as they are, nurses at Cornwall General are dropping out of the profession—or reducing their commitment. Nurse Maureen McDermid gave up her full-time job in November and switched to an arrangement that allows her and a colleague to share 75 hours of work spread over two-week periods. "I still want to be a nurse," says McDermid. "But not full time. I'm not willing to exhaust myself like any anymore." Victoria Fortier, a registered nurse for 23 years, says that "we're asked to be caring professionals,

with limited staff and limited resources. I was upset when I went home last night, because we had a cancer patient, in pain, lying on a stretcher in the hallway all day—and I didn't have time to give her the care and attention she needed."

During the morning, Godard is involved with several patients whose problems typify the difficulties facing hospital staff. One is a woman in her 50s with severe throat inflammation. In the hope of pinpointing the cause, doctors have ordered a CAT scan. But Cornwall General doesn't

have one of those high-tech imaging machines, so the patient will have to go to the city's other major hospital, Hillside Drive, about five blocks away. "It's hard on the patient," says Godard, "and a nurse will have to go with her." Another patient is a woman in her 80s who has fractured her spine. She also has arrived with an untreated bladder condition. "That's only one example at Cornwall," says Godard. "It's hard to get here."

That patient has another problem. In ward off possible strokes, she has been taking drugs to thin her blood. But she had taken excessive amounts of the medication, with the result that her blood is too thin, posing the risk that an accidental injury could cause a potentially fatal blood loss. "The real question," says Godard, "is why was she taking so much of the drug? Is there some kind of problem at home that needs to be looked at? If I had more time, I would try to look into this—and not being able to leaves me feeling dissatisfied and sort of guilty."

There are other nagging sources of discontent. Although many of the nurses have university degrees—Godard has one in health-care degrees, in science and nursing—they say they re-

Kyra (left), Godard and Fortier with patient Cecile LeBlanc: 'we can't give patients the care they should be getting, and that bothers me'

ceive no added pay or status as a result. And many of the nurses resent the authoritarian attitudes of doctors. "I'm a highly trained health-care professional," says Godard. "I want to have a little more influence in my job." For the most part, pay is not an issue. Working an average of about 20 hours a week, Godard estimates that she earns \$30,000 a year. And a full-time nurse at Cornwall General can earn as much as \$57,000 a year. "Money is not the problem," says Fortier. "It's job satisfaction."

Still, like their colleagues across Canada, nurses at Cornwall General are full of stories about salaries 10 per cent higher than in Canada, \$3,000 signing bonuses and superior fringe benefits that come with nursing jobs in the United States. "I'm a Canadian nurse," says Fortier. "I want to work here, but it's getting a lot harder to tough it out." Godard, who is married and has a 15-month-old daughter, says she sometimes thinks of abandoning her profession. As a teenager, she was drawn to nursing because the thought of it as an honorable career. "But we're so rushed now that patient care just falls by the wayside," she says. "This isn't the way I wanted it to be." ■



Nurses no longer have the time to provide personal attention and emotional support

the shortage of beds, nurses say their own numbers are inadequate. There are currently 56 full-time nurses, down from 87 a decade ago, as well as 99 part-time nurses and 38 registered practical nurses—in effect, nurse's aides—20 fewer than a decade ago. Meanwhile, nurses complain that workloads are increasing. With the number of support workers reduced by budget cuts, nurses have to help move patients from one place to another, leaving them with less time for patient care. "There used to be kids in the ward,

Big-city Headaches

BY D'ARCY JENISH

Berry Wain is about midway through a typically hectic 12-hour day. She is seated in her cramped, cluttered office on the second floor of Toronto General Hospital. Her desk is lined with papers, the phone is ringing, and the doctor at the door urgently needs her attention. Wain, a grandmother of four, shares responsibility with a partner for staffing and scheduling of what she calls "the most expensive and scarce" in the hospital—32 operating rooms where some of the country's top surgeons routinely perform complex, high-risk operations. On this mid-December day, four rooms have called in sick; three new patients have been admitted with life-threatening ailments; and a surgeon requires two operating rooms for a liver transplant in which a liver donor will contribute tissue to a dying relative. "By the grace of God, we haven't had to cancel any surgery today," she says.

"This is an unpredictable business, and we have no flexibility in the system."

With every operating room in use, there is none available for emergencies

That lack of flexibility is due primarily to staff shortages, says Wain, and it means she is constantly juggling personnel and assurances to ensure that the operating rooms are fully utilized. His department is currently nine names short of its full complement of 93, but she expects to fill the vacancies only in the new year with youthful nursing graduates.

In fact, the shortages have created unusual opportunities for talented

young professionals such as Kristi Kerr, a 25-year-old from the small Northern Ontario community of Red Rock. Kerr joined the TGH staff in December, 1999, after completing a nursing degree at Lakehead University in Thunder Bay and a four-month periparturient course for operating-room nurses. She trained various surgical specialists until May, when she joined the cardiac team, a move Wain describes as "a quantum leap for a new nurse, the going straight from kindergarten to Harvard." And Kerr admits that, initially, working across the operating table from top-flight heart surgeons was intimidating. "It was stressful, very scary," she says.

The shortage of nurses and other medical professionals is a major problem at Toronto General and two affil-

ated institutions—Princess Margaret Hospital and Toronto Western Hospital—after making up what is called the University Health Network. In mid-December, there were about 2,300 nurses working at UHN, the country's largest hospital operator, but nearly 300 positions were vacant. Department heads also say they cannot hire enough cancer treatment specialists, physiotherapists and anesthesiologists, among other professions. The personnel crunch forced the organization to close about 50 of 520 beds throughout much of the fall, and almost 240 remained empty over the Christmas-new year period due to staff holidays. And for more than 100 days last year, the two emergency departments had to redirect ambulances to other hospitals because they did not have the staff available to admit additional patients. "Almost everywhere you look, there are shortages," says UHN president Tom Chown. "Stuffing is going to be our biggest issue for the next 10 years."

Solving all the problems may take even longer. Dr. Robert Bell, a surgeon and vice-president at Princess Margaret, Ontario's largest cancer-care operation, says his institution cannot hire enough radiation therapists, the technicians who administer the treatment to cancer patients. There is also an impending shortage of radiation oncologists, the doctors who assess patients and determine the dosage they are to receive. The use of infection has expanded dramatically over the past decade, usually in a secondary treatment to eliminate microscopic bits of tumors that may have been left behind in surgery. In Ontario, Bell notes, close to 30 per cent of all cancer patients now receive radiation.

But the training of therapists has not kept pace with demand. A class of 50 students are on course to graduate in May, 2002, from the radiation therapy program at Toronto's Michener Institute for Applied Health Sciences, but as of Nov. 30, cancer-care facilities in Ontario had 66 vacant positions. Bell says Princess Margaret, which already employs about 120 radiation therapists, could only use another 20. The hospital has 15 infection machines that are in use up to 10 hours a day, but they could be operating 12 to 14 hours daily, given the patient load.

The lack of therapists has meant two things. Since April, 1999, Ontario cancer centers have lost 1,545 breast and

prostate patients, about nine per cent of their case load, across the borders to clinics in Buffalo, N.Y., Detroit and Cleveland for radiation treatment. In most cases, those patients had faced a year of a lean eight weeks following surgery before radiation could commence in Ontario. And since last January, Cancer Care Ontario, the organization that co-ordinates treatment provincially, has been recruiting radiation therapists internationally. It has hired 71 from eight countries, including England, Australia, Nigeria and Thailand, and an additional 74 came from provincial training programs or from across the country. But by mid-December, only 75 remained employed in Ontario, due to minimums or departures for positions elsewhere.

Meanwhile, says Bell, Ontario's cancer treatment system is on the brink of a desperate shortage of radiation oncologists. The province's medical schools are producing only one or two of the specialists per year, not nearly enough to replace those expected to retire within the next five years. Furthermore, there is no quick way to turn out more qualified practitioners because of the onerous training they need—four years of undergraduate study and another five at the graduate level. "We recognize the need, but we have to convince the medical schools and the government to find more slots for radiation oncologists," he says. "Then we have to attract more students."

Wain (left) and Kerr constantly juggling personnel to keep surgeries on schedule

The personnel shortages have forced managers at the three UHN hospitals to be innovative and efficient. Catherine Robson, the clinical utilization manager at Toronto Western, says her duties include working with department heads each day to ensure that resources are available to meet ever-changing demands. Sometimes it just isn't possible. Two heavy snowfalls in mid-December brought an influx of patients with fractures requiring surgery. With the orthopedics floor quickly filled, new patients had to be assigned to beds in other wards and face a long wait for surgery. "One day, we had five patients we simply couldn't operate on until we had the right beds post-surgery," she says. "A big part of the problem was staffing. We have ortho beds closed because we don't have nurses."

On the TGH surgical floor, operating rooms are booked 100 per cent of the time, leaving no excess capacity for emergencies or for emergencies, which must be done swiftly when an organ becomes available. "Everybody is working their tail off," says surgeon-in-chief Dr. Bryan Taylor, "and we're managing to close to the last that it just seems difficult." Just ask Terry Wain. "If one of two nurses phone in sick and I can't replace them, I have to cancel surgeries," she says. "I spend half my life on the phone trying to find people." In circumstances like that, everyone suffers, including the patients. ■



The Cradle of Medicare

As Canadians debate the future of public health insurance, Gull Lake, Sask., native Doug Smith, who now lives in Ontario, looks back to his roots to reveal Saskatchewan more than a half-century ago

The birth of what would become known as Canadian Medicare was still five years away when Piu Cammer, then 34, had her appendix cut in 1941. It cost her parents \$90, a staggering sum for a family that recently had been living on Depression-era relief of \$9 a month. "That was a hardship, believe me," she says from her comfortable apartment in Swift Current, Sask., as she sorts through her records of those tumultuous times.

Slim and regal at 73, she's one of the very few still living who was inside the delivery room as Medicare was born. Within five years of that appendix operation, she was working as the personal secretary to a small-town Prairie visionary named Stewart Robertson as he was named the first



Douglas and the Swift Current model

Mayor to create the Swift Current Health Region No. 3. Above Karl Kjoeven, a pipe-smoking farmer who had seen his two small daughters die for want of adequate medical care and who was familiar with public medical plans in his native Norway, was named chairman of the governing board.

Within six months, the board had a plan up and running. It was financed by a modest combined property tax and \$300-per-family annual levy that covered doctor fees, full dental coverage for children and the little slice of \$4.10-a-day hospital stay. After years of accepting chickens, vegetables and slabs of pork in lieu of money from cash-strapped farmers, doctors readily agreed to payments of 75 per cent of the provincial fee schedule.

Significantly, the medical and dental programs were complemented by a major public-health campaign. "The situation was pretty atrocious," recalls Frank Peters, 81, who spent more than 42 years as the region's senior public-health inspector. "There were rats all over the place, and cockroaches. We'd go check the outdoor toilets, water supply, oil/supplies in stores, waste-disposal grounds, then we'd go to a central meeting and discuss it with them, and we'd say we think you can improve things if you do this or that sort of thing." By mid-1946, the 18,000 families of south-western Saskatchewan were enjoying the benefits of a public-health and medical-care system that would be copied throughout Canada and emulated by the world.

Cammer recalls that the health region succeeded because it was autonomous, more or less free of bureaucratic dictates from distant governments. The board and its doctors insured each other. And her dinky boss, Stewart Robertson, managed the money "as if it was his own," working out of a curatorial office on a city desk.

Betty Wothchopson, 77, a former public-health nurse who remembers patients thinking it would be better to die than to saddle their families with bankruptcy, health-care bills, says the plan worked because it helped people enjoy healthy and well, and to get well when they weren't. "Money wasn't a factor," she says.

"I hope sincerely it will last," she adds of the medical-care system the region spawned. "If we lose it, I'm not sure we'd get it back." ■



Many farm families could not afford to see a doctor

Cancer in 1959: a \$50 appendectomy meant hardship

secretary-treasurer and administrator of the Swift Current Health Region No. 1, forerunner of the medical-care plan that Saskatchewan premier Tommy Douglas would introduce in 1963. (The Saskatchewan plan was the model for Canadian Medicare, which came into effect in 1968.)

"He had what it took," says Cammer of Robertson, her boss, who, like others elsewhere in Saskatchewan, had experimented with small health-care plans in various rural municipalities in the lean days of Prairie agriculture when crop failures and depressed prices often put the cost of medical help beyond the reach of most families. Robertson, a former municipal official, managed a health-care program in tiny Wadena, Sask., just west of Swift Current, where families paid a maximum fee for fee of \$50 a year for local doctor and hospital visits and inoculations against diphtheria, whooping cough, scarlet and measles. His counterpart in the nearby rural municipality of Mervin, medicine pioneer Bill Buckle, ran a similar plan, but dreamed of something larger. By 1946, 60 people from eight municipalities met in Gull

The
Angler & Hunter
TELEVISION
The only outdoors show of its kind

Join the Angler and Hunter television as we enter our 5th great season with your ticket to the great outdoors!

You won't want to miss a single episode -
Monthly episodes.

Bring home, live on the screen.
And a wilderness for woodcock.

All this and so much more on the only outdoors television show of its kind.

Fish Boat Hunt Shoot

The Great Outdoors... coming to a TV near you!

brought to you by

MERCURY
The Motor Calls

WINN-DIXIE
V.I.P. Club

LUND
A Tradition of Quality

BRONKHORST
The Best Taste Is

OPN 1 (KRODOR) 100%
OF ALL CARS &
TRUCKS

OPN: Canada's Superstore
Saturdays 9:30 am

CHX Peaborough
Saturdays 7:30 am

OPN: Ottawa
Sundays 9:30 am

OPN: Kingston
Saturdays 7:30 am

CHD Thunder Bay
Saturdays 1:30 pm

OPN: Kananis
Sundays 11:30 am

NCTV Network
CFC Sud. Bn. Main
3:00-4:00 pm
OPN: Timmins
OPN: Sudbury
Sundays 1:30 pm

INTRODUCING THE FORD ESCAPE



For times when you just need to get away from it all, Ford fully automatic 4-wheel drive* and 200 HP V6 engine** deliver introduces the Escape. A brand new sub-compact SUV that gives performance that's out of this world. So what are you combines nimble handling with real SUV power and capability, waiting for? Getting lost has never been so much fun. To learn Escape can conquer even the most foreign terrain. And Escape's more, check out ford.com/noboundaries or call 1-800-561-FORD.

*Optional. **Based on V6 model shown. †Participation of the Canadian Road Council Foundation. ‡Based on XLT model shown.





Union policy class with EU protesters. Czech protesters near the German border (below) anxiety

swinging membership in the EU. Czech President Václav Havel reflected the extent of that frustration when he was moved to remark recently: "Only a fool who has learned nothing from millennia of European history can believe that tranquility, peace and prosperity can flourish forever in one part of Europe without regard to what is happening in the other." For those on both sides of Europe's political divide, the argument may well be approaching a resolution. In December, the leaders of the EU's 15 member states gathered in the French seaside resort of Nice for a bruising summit. After five grueling days of near round-the-clock negotiations, the assembled presidents and prime ministers emerged, blustered in the pressroom glow, with the outlines of a new treaty. By any measure, it was a historic document, not least because it will finally reverse the bitter legacy bequeathed to Europe by the Second World War. If carried to a successful conclusion, the Nice Treaty will neatly double the EU's membership. By the end of the current decade, there may be as many as 28 countries in the Union, encompassing a population of more than 500 million, stretching from the Atlantic Ocean and the Baltic Sea to the margins of the Middle East. Most of the new member states will come from Eastern and Central Europe, thereby undoing all of the postwar settlements between Moscow and the Western powers that split the continent in two. "This meeting," declared French President Jacques Chirac, "will go down in history as a great summit."

Few who actually participated in the marathon talks agreed with Chirac. "We simply cannot continue to do business this way," complained British Prime Minister Tony Blair, clearly irked by the co-buzzing sounds of haggling in the small hours over minuscule details among leaders intent on preserving sacrosanct national interests. Even more discomfited was Romano Prodi, the former Italian prime minister who is now president of the EU Commission, the organization's undoubted co-ordinator. "I cannot hide from you a certain regret that we did not go farther," said Prodi, bemoaning the summit's lack of progress on scrutinizing the EU's already cumbersome procedures. If anything, the meetings in Nice complicated the way the EU operates, expanding the commission membership from 20 to 27, adding 114 seats to the 626-seat European Parliament and rebalancing voting to decisively shift power away from smaller member states to the EU's "Big Four"—Germany, France, Britain and Italy.

While the EU's leaders may have failed on the details, they did manage to succeed on the larger issue of expansion eastward. "Our prospects of joining the EU have now become much more real," said a delighted Estonian Foreign Minister Toomas Hendrik Ilves. Among the 13 countries that are candidates for EU membership, Estonia is widely viewed as a front-runner, along with Poland, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia and Cyprus. None of these countries are likely to join in 2003, perhaps 2004, once they have adapted na-

tional laws to comply with a formidable 50,000 pages of mandatory EU legislation. Further back wait Latvia, Lithuania, Slovakia, Malta, Bulgaria and Romania. None of these states in the second tier is likely to be ready for membership until at least 2006. At the very end of the line sits Turkey, granted candidate status last December but yet to embark on the years of formal negotiations that precede membership.

Enormous hurdles remain before even those countries at the front of the queue can consent to join Western Europe's wealthy club of nations. None is likely to prove more difficult than the free movement of labour, something a right for all of the EU's fully accredited members. The issue is so politically sensitive that, until the German chancellor is elected before Christmas in Weiden, it has never been openly broached by any major EU leader. In Weiden, the chancellor unveiled a five-point program to address fears about the



European Blues

By Barry Cassin in London

Throughout his political career, German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder has displayed a penchant for richly symbolic gestures. So it was not an accident that he chose Weiden in the Oberpfalz in which to deliver a solemn pre-Christmas message. The small city with the large mine sits on the banks of the Naab River in northern Bavaria, a mere 30 km from the border with the Czech Republic. The proximity of that border worries Weiden's citizens, just as it does the inhabitants of all of the other towns and villages scattered along Germany's eastern frontier. There are 170 million people beyond the border in Eastern Europe, living in the lands once dominated by the Soviet Union. And the fear is that many in that huge population

Plans to expand to the less-affluent East worry EU members

are now poised to move westward, undermining German prosperity. "We know your concerns," Schröder reassured his Bavarian audience. "The German government will not abandon you."

European Union enlargement has at the root of German anxiety. There is widespread despair over the prospect that expansion will unleash an invasion of Eastern European migrants in search of better jobs and higher pay. Ever since the fall of the Berlin Wall, the issue has bedeviled public officials. In the West, it spawned a host of political parties on the extreme right, exploiting public unease over an influx of eastern workers. In the East, the expansion issue has been the source of simmering frustration in the post-communist countries, many of which have been patiently

effects of a massive move of cheap eastern labour towards the West. The conspiracy is a proposal that workers from Eastern Europe should not be free to immigrate west for up to seven years after eventually joining the EU. "We in Germany have a temporary transitional problem in the labour market," he said. "The correct solution for a transitional problem can only be temporary regulations."

No matter what the eventual solution, the EU is clearly now embarked on a plan that will, sooner or later, see the emergence of a new, more fractured Europe in world affairs, based upon the single largest market on the face of the planet. For trading nations like Canada, the implications are considerable. On the surface, Canada's official position is to encourage the EU's expansion. Behind the scenes, however, there are concerns, not least the possible marginalization of a Canada caught between two competing world powers. One already exists on Canada's southern border: America, even larger, it is on the rise on the other side of the Atlantic. ■



A glass a day.

Welch's purple grape juice is another way to get the goodness of grapes. In fact it's now part of the Heart & Stroke Foundation's Health Check-Program.



Terror at 10,000 feet

Many of the 379 passengers aboard a British Airways jumbo jet screamed in terror when it was burnt into the cockpit and sent to the plane into a steep dive during a night flight from London to Nairobi. Capt. William Hagen refused to bail out as an air and finger as he, a co-pilot and several passengers subdued and bound the 27-year-old Kenyan intruder. Another co-pilot regained control of the plane after a harrowing 3,000-foot descent.

Outrage over a dance-hall fire

More than 200 people reached down main street in the central Chinese city of Luoyang following a dance-hall fire that killed 309 people. Police arrested four welders who were working at the hall and are suspected of accidentally causing the blaze. The government denounced a meeting with officials, criticizing the government's callous response to the tragedy.

Reformers bounce Milosevic

Reformers who toppled Slobodan Milosevic from the Yugoslav presidency swept away the remnants of his rule after ousting his Socialist party in Serbia's parliamentary election. The Democratic Opposition of Serbia alliance won 64 per cent of the vote. Immediately following the election, Milosevic's government bodyguards were ordered removed, raising speculation that he might soon be arrested.

Deep freeze grips America

An ice storm that swept across the southern United States knocked out power to about 600,000 homes, caused at least 40 deaths and seriously disrupted travel. Snow and ice caused chaos from Texas to Minnesota and the Northeast, closing roads and forcing the cancellation of hundreds of flights.

Guiding Mir home

Seeking to stop fears that the aging Mir space station will make an uncontrolled plunge to Earth, Russian officials said they will use an unmanned cargo spacecraft to steer Mir into the Pacific Ocean in February. The cargo ship will dock with Mir and its engines will be used to control the descent.



Murderous holiday rampage at the office

Armed with a rifle, shotgun and a pistol, Michael McDermott, a 43-year-old navy veteran, killed seven coworkers at Edgewater Technology Inc. in Woburn, Mass. McDermott, who was under psychiatric care at the time of the shootings, deliberately picked out certain people and bypassed others. Police believe he was enraged over a plan to guarantee his wages to pay back taxes.

Clinton's elusive Mideast peace deal

U.S. President Bill Clinton bid to bring peace to the Middle East before he leaves office on Jan. 20 has been battered by violence and growing doubts over whether his proposals could ever be implemented. Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak and Palestinian Authority chairman Yasser Arafat were in agreement it a Red Sea port with Egyptian President Hossni Mubarak to discuss Clinton's plan. But the meeting was cancelled after Barak and Arafat was not anxious about finding a settlement. A rash of bombings quickly followed. Explosions on a Tel Aviv bus injured 14 people, two seriously. Hours later, two Israeli soldiers died in a bomb blast in the Gaza Strip, leading Israel to close its borders with the occupied territories. Arafat's Fatah faction, in turn, called for an intensification of the Palestinian uprising, declaring: "Let the resistance continue."

The cancellation of the meeting drew a frustrated response from Clinton. "There is no point in our talking

further unless both sides accept the parameters I have laid out," Clinton said in Washington. He proposed giving the Palestinians a state occupying 95 per cent of the West Bank and all of Gaza. In addition, the Palestinians would share sovereignty with Israel over Jerusalem's Temple Mount, a shrine holy to both Jews and Muslims. In exchange, the Palestinians would curtail demands that Palestinian refugees be allowed to return to their original homes in Israel.

After initially indicating they might go along with the plan, Israeli officials expressed reservations, reflecting growing opposition among Israelis to handing over key parts of Jerusalem. Israeli television reported that army commander Lt.-Gen. Shaul Mofaz told Israeli cabinet that the plan would leave Jewish neighborhoods in Jerusalem isolated and vulnerable to attack. And the renewed bombings seemed certain to further Israeli attitudes towards the Palestinians even more.

Wiring the World

By Ken MacQuinn

Barely a year ago, it was a relative unknown, a private, Vancouver-based company called "Worldwide Fiber Inc. It sounded, to the uninitiated, like a relic of British Columbia's old economy—a pulp and paper mill, maybe, or a chain of fish-food stores. Such misconceptions evaporated in late 1999 when Greg Maffei, Microsoft Corp.'s chief financial officer, deflected from the global software giant to take a headline-grabbing equity stake in and the top job as CEO of—what was it again?—"Worldwide Fiber. It turned out the company built fiber-optic cable networks, but financial analysts were left to puzzle over its attraction to Maffei, then a 39-year-old wunderkind running Microsoft's \$56-billion cash and investment portfolio. A friend joked to Maffei: "I'm so glad you're going to cure the world's dietary problems." The friend wasn't far off. In a wild year of growth, Maffei and company have raised billions to put the world on an optical fiber-rich diet to feed the expo-

360networks is betting billions that demand for high-speed cable networks will just keep exploding

renna growth in telephone and, especially, Internet use. Maffei hit the ground running with an audacious—some audacious, some analyst say—\$9-billion plan to wrap the globe in high-capacity communications cable. By mid-April, the company, renamed 360networks Inc., had raised more than \$3 billion in bank loans, bond sales and an initial public share offering. It was a considerable feat in an increasingly toxic market for such stocks. Investors were rattled in British Columbia by Maffei's refusal to appoint his wife and two young children from their Seattle home. Instead, he maintained a Seattle office, making the short hop by commercial jet to Vancouver headquarters as needed. More eye-popping was his acquisition of a hotel chain over the highest-priced sports hero. Maffei negotiated a \$114-million loan to buy an eight-per-cent stake in 360networks at bargain prices. His high-tech house made named bets into a paper millionaire, if he can hold 360networks's stock value at or above the initial offering price of \$20.66. It also made billions of Elton and Cliff Ledge, who control Vancouver-based construction company Leckie Industries Ltd., parent company of Worldwide Fiber. The ubiquitous Ledge brother



ren owns the largest shareholder in 360networks. In Maffei, the Ledges have an established deal-maker and a credible public front man. "We have a good relationship," says Maffei. "I think they're happy with our progress to date."

Maffei has gathered a stellar list of investors and advisors, including global media mogul Rupert Murdoch, Michael Dell, CEO of Dell Computer Corp., and Terry Matthews, a pioneering founder of such Canadian high-tech success as Mael Corp. and Newbridge Networks Corp. By mid-2002, the 360networks will link more than 100 major cities with more than 140,000 km of cable, some running under city streets, buried beside rail lines or strung along the ocean floor. American companies Global Crossing Ltd. and Level3 Communications Inc. are also adding to their information pipelines, leading some analysts to warn of a looming glut in bandwidth—the capacity of these cables to carry telephone and computer-generated data. How much junk e-mail does the world need? The bandwidth pace of expansion is "a little bit of a land grab," says Maffei. "People feel they need to stake their position."

In the case of 360networks, the land grab is waged simulta-



360networks employees laying cable. Maffei (left) is wiring more than 140,000 km of line beside railway tracks and under the ocean floor

neously in North and South America, in Europe, and under the Atlantic and Pacific oceans. "I think we have more ships on their own canal," says Scott Lyons, vice-president of submarine systems. "At last count, we had 14 ships at sea." Nearing completion or under construction are Atlantic cables linking Halifax and Europe, the first fiber-optic cable linking North and South America, and an undersea network hop-scotching to Japan, Hong Kong, South Korea and other Asian centers. Ships are sweeping the \$2.4-

billion Pacific crossing, a cable that had been in "Worldwide Fiber's plans in 1997." Just to firm, Maffei bumped it to an urgent priority and increased its capacity by 60 times. "In this business, you either go or you die," says James Black, a Toronto-based equity research analyst who tracks the industry for TD Securities. He credits Maffei with attracting enough cash and strategic partnerships to complete 360's ambitious

plan. "While in share value has slumped to slightly below its initial price, Black blames the depressed tech sector. "Actually, since we were public, it has outperformed its competitors in the stock market. It's hanging in there just fine."

In Maffei's view, the inevitable plunge in communications demand as so many optical networks light up isn't a disaster but an opportunity to increase volumes. Even he can't predict all the uses for the network he is building. "We can surmise some of the ones that are going to be obvious," he says, listing videoconferencing and the exchange of far data files of movies, music and photography. "But there will be a host of things we don't know yet that will change the way we live and work." His optimism is backed by a recent study for Narnet Networks Corp., a supplier for 360networks with uniquely high miles in routing up the Internet. The study by telecom analyst BHK Inc. of San Francisco, predicts a 300-fold increase in bandwidth demand within 10 years.

Still, cable communications has a long history of rise and fall. A spectacular series of failures presaged the successful landing in 1856 of the first operational trans-Atlantic copper telegraph cable from Valentia Island, Ireland, to Hatter's Cove, Nfld. Although it operated at Morse code at a snail's pace, words per minute, the concept of near-instantaneous communication profoundly altered human affairs. By 1876, the rate had climbed to 10 words per minute, and the chase for bandwidth was on. For a time of today's pace, think of the dots and dashes of Morse code as roughly equivalent to single "bits" of modern digital information. The hair-thin glass fibers of 360networks's Pacific cable have a capacity of 4.8 billion bits a second—enough to carry 60 million phone calls, or five million digital photographs a second.

Such digital firepower is shifting the sluggish B.C. economy from dependence on another form of fiber, its forests. By some estimates, high tech will surpass the economic contribution of forestry within four years. The top 100 tech companies headquartered in the province had almost \$4 billion in revenues in 1999, according to a ranking by British Columbia's Technology Network. Of those, 360networks ranked from nowhere to the top of the list, with \$540 million in revenues that year (and fully \$532 million in the first nine months of 2000, up 50 per cent against the '99 period). "We are the beneficiary of an enormous pool of Canadian talent," says Maffei. Although the company has locally for its global operations, about 300 of its 1,400 employees are Canadian.

Yet responsibility for 360's global gamble goes with its franchise players, the high-priced talent from Seattle. It's up to the shareholders to decide if Fitch worth it, says Maffei, who's on the hook for a huge loss for his stake of the company. "Hopefully, we'll all agree to prosper together. And if we don't," he says, as if the notion was preposterous, "I'll certainly be one of the ones who feel it."

Photo: www.360networks.com



Lessons for the year ahead

There's always something a little harsh and gray about the light of a new year. And given the foreshadowing economic shadows that gathered towards the end of last year, that's especially true in 2001. Does this, then, however, several lessons to be gleaned from that past year that offer valuable context for the gloom that most likely lies ahead.

1. **Expectation Is Reality:** However carefully and accurately managed the economy may be, investor psychology and perceptions are still a far more powerful force than hard data. A long list of profit warnings from major corporations in the last months of 2000 severely rattled North American consumer confidence, even though many of those companies still expect to post positive growth and earnings in the quarters ahead. The fact is that investor expectations became excessive, and are now in the painful process of unravelling. This is a dangerous period for two specific reasons: it creates an excessive capital crunch at a time when companies are especially needy, and consumers spending will account for roughly two-thirds of all economic activity.

2. **Search for the Middle Path:** Whenever a market is overvalued, as North American equities have been for the past couple of years, they never return to fair value in one elegant correction. They almost always become significantly overvalued—creating all sorts of chaos—before returning to a more balanced level of expectation and activity.

3. **Everything New Is Old Again:** For all the headlines and hype, the New Economy really isn't that different from the Old Economy after all. The law of gravity will apply. Despite remarkable gains in productivity and a shift of capital into high-tech industries, the traditional business cycle has been modified but not eradicated by the advent of information technology. And no amount of technological advance or productivity improvements can overcome the fundamental laws of supply and demand—a fact borne out by the apparently sudden slump in the all-important North American automotive sector.

Further evidence of the convergence of New and Old Economies is that old-fashioned, industrial-style labor unions have started to make inroads among technology-driven companies. Beneath their shiny new surfaces, do-it-yourselfers often employ workers at relatively low wages to do piecework for long hours. And there's nothing remotely "New Economy" about the health-and-safety issues that still apply to those who work in the warehouses and distribution side of big e-commerce.

4. **Debunking Do-As-Canes:** The collapse of a wide range of dot-com start-up operations—and the imposition of the market for their public stock offerings—provides irrefutable

proof that ventures with absolutely no history to carry, shoddy business models, inexperienced management and negligible revenues or cash flow ultimately cannot survive.

Furthermore, despite all the buzz about the coming-of-age of venture capital, it dried up in remarkably short order as the dot-com rally faded. Surely all that remaining, or "latter-day incubation" is only effective when there's a large and quick return in public markets in sight.

5. **Cash Is King:** When revenues become squashed and it's no longer possible to use stock to currency, companies with good Old Economy cash in hand fare the best. One example is Nortel Networks, which has used the soaring value of its shares to embark on an aggressive campaign of mergers and acquisitions. But now that the bloom is off its stock price, the company's future growth and flexibility are in question.

On the other hand, risk like Cisco Systems, which has gone from cash reserves, are in a much better strategic position. Another example of the perils of leverage is Laidlaw, the Canadian transportation company. Using debt and stock to expand away from its core business and into the U.S. market, the company has seen its share price fall over the course of 2000, to prices from around \$7.

6. **Stop Telling You Drop:** Many of the first companies to release profit warnings for the coming quarter were those that have been the most embroiled in the merger and acquisition frenzy. Tame out that the challenges of integration are much greater than initially anticipated.

The most obvious Canadian example of biting off more than management can chew is the situation at Air Canada. Just before Christmas, the Montreal-based airline—which acquired rival Canadian Airlines a year ago—suddenly announced the elimination of 3,500 jobs, a six-per-cent domestic fare increase effective Jan. 1 and a fourth-quarter profit warning. Similarly in the United States, about the only thing to come from the much-touted, record-setting merger of America Online and Time Warner one year ago is a recent profit warning.

7. **A Revisionist by Any Other Name:** Despite any reassurances about the sustainable strength of the domestic economy from both economists and federal finance officials (who are usually interchangable), only a complete fool would believe that Canada can outperform the economic performance in the United States for an extended period. The one hope in this atmosphere of relentless defeat is David Dodge, the new governor of the Bank of Canada. It is a time when the Liberal government has decided to acquiesce Canada's prosperity dividend to buy a political victory, he is a veteran deficit czar.

Dollar on the rise

After a downturn since last year, the Canadian dollar ended 2000 on a high note, rising half a cent to close at more than 66 cents (U.S.). Analysts said that the outlook for the loonie is likely to improve as concerns about an economic slowdown in the United States quieted speculation that U.S. interest rates will begin to decline.

Energy sector heats up

Dallas-based Hunt Oil Co. said it has made a \$1-billion hostile bid for Beckley Petroleum, Corp. of Calgary, to drive stronger this year to buy Calgary companies with natural gas assets. In April bid for Ute Petroleum Ltd. failed, but acquired Newport Petroleum Corp. in June. The bid, together with low oil and gas inventories and colder than normal weather, helped push energy stocks sharply higher on the Toronto Stock Exchange.

Ford goes down

In line with recent production cuts at Detroit's Chrysler and General Motors Corp., Ford Motor Co. announced that it will introduce temporary plant shutdowns this month. Ontario plants affected include those in Windsor, Oshawa and St. Thomas. Ford said changing sales and profits for the outlook. The company also said that it has sent a handful of the lawsuits against it relating to accidents involving its Explorer SUV.

Veteran retailer calls it quits

After Christmas sales dealt the final death blow to U.S. department-store chain Montgomery Ward & Co. Inc., a century-old company with 28,000 employees, 250 stores and annual sales of more than \$2 billion (U.S.). The company was purchased in 1997 by General Electric Co. for \$650 million after a long hiatus.

Defasco takes a hit

Hamilton-based Defasco Inc., Canada's second-largest steel-maker, said that its fourth-quarter profits will be half of what analysts had estimated. The company added that the slowdown in the auto industry will reduce demand for steel.

New governor faces tough choices

The government surprised the financial community by appointing David Dodge as the next governor of the Bank of Canada.



Dodge inheriting act

Mary had expected the post to go to the current bank's acting deputy governor, Malcolm Knight, recruited in 1999 from the International Monetary Fund, but a special bank committee instead nominated Dodge, an academic and career bureaucrat who is credited with playing a key role in the reduction of the deficit while serving as Prof. Maclean's deputy finance minister from 1992 to 1997. Since then, he has been deputy minister at Health Canada.

Over from the current governor, Gordon Thiessen, on Feb. 1. He has already promised to maintain the bank's policy of keeping the inflation rate between one and three per cent. That task may be harder for Dodge than it has been for Thiessen, however, because of discontented economic conditions.

Many analysts are predicting a slowdown this year, making it risky for the bank to raise interest rates, the forward method of lowering inflation by dampening demand. At the same time, rising energy costs may push prices higher, potentially creating double choices for the new governor.

Air Canada takes a dive

Announcing dramatic measures to deal with slumping profits, Air Canada said it will shed 3,500 jobs, nearly through attrition and buyouts, and raise domestic fare priority by one cent. But the company also launched a new sale that will cut some family 40 per cent and Jan. 16. At Canada and the cost of litigation with Canadian Airlines, rising fuel costs and hundreds of cancelled flights due to bad weather will translate into a loss of \$119 million for the fourth quarter. In the previous three quarters, the airline's profits totalled \$791 million.

Financial Outlook

The talk might be of slowdowns, but economic growth in Canada remains strong. The economy grew by half a per cent in October, more than double analysts' expectations. For the year, gross domestic product will grow by at least 4.6 per cent. But the news isn't all good. Even with better department stores, retail sales are slipping. They were down half a per cent in October, mostly due to lower auto sales.

While manufacturing was up an impressive 1.3 per cent for the month, demand from the United States is falling





Tech Explorer

Traffic lights that think ahead

The work of police and firefighters is filled with risks, but not always for the most obvious reasons. One of the dangers they face is racing to the scene of an emergency. Each year, hundreds of North Americans are killed when drivers fail to heed a police car or fire truck's flashing lights and sirens. To cut down on collisions at intersections, many communities in Canada and the United States have automated their traffic lights so they switch to green for police and firefighters answering a distress call, and signal red in all other directions. But now E-View Safety Systems Inc. of Agoura Hills, Calif., in collaboration with NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif., is taking the concept one step further.

Last month, Missionville, a town of 41,000 residents three kilometers east of Pasadena, voted to test E-View's technology. Its fire trucks and 20 police cars will be equipped with microwave transponders that, when manually activated by a police officer or firefighter, will be able to change the

traffic lights at any of eight intersections from red to green in one kilometer. The signal will also light up a large electronic display panel mounted on the arm of the traffic light to read "emergency vehicle approaching." A map of the intersection will appear, along with a movable icon of the emergency vehicle as it comes near. Missionville police Chief Joseph Sincero says the technology will be particularly useful during car chases. "In Canada, you guys probably have panthers," says Sincero, "but down here in L.A. County, there are panthers going on all the time." In fact, after a spate of ugly incidents, Ottawa awarded the Criminal Code in 1999 so that anyone who flees police faces rough penalties.

Sincero's assessment of the new technology will include a success/rejection on whether E-View's light-changing system should be activated automatically. In Ottawa, the fire department already has the automated system. John Nicholls, superintendent of signals and data communications for the city, cau-

A Virginia fire truck crashed on April after avoiding a car on an intersection, unleashing warnings

tion against a manual system since it requires an element of judgment. "The driver has enough to concentrate on," says Nicholls, "without wondering about when it is his going to be engaging this intersection."

Tiny rex

Today's personal digital assistants, small though they may be, are still too big to carry in a short pocket. Enter Xirena Inc.'s credit-card-sized, 48-mm thick Rex 6000 MicroPDA. Weighing in at 65 g, this Rex features two megapixels of flash memory and can hold thousands of contacts, e-mail addresses, appointments, and to-do list entries. Data can be entered using stylus and the touch screen keyboard on the liquid crystal display, or downloaded from a personal computer via the Rex's USB cable. Synchronization can also be performed through a laptop PC card slot. Stock quotes, news and sports are available to be downloaded from Xirena's Web site. Price: \$225.

Danylo Hovavchuk

Cool Site Puppy love

Despite the animal cautions from animal shelters, well-meaning gift givers across Canada this Christmas will have added someone they love with a puppy that proves to be a handful. To mouse all goes smoothly, psychology professor Mark Plesch at the University of Wisconsin has assembled a virtual library of articles and tips on training puppies. At www.uwsp.edu/psych/docs/lab_puppies, Plesch provides a wealth of links on house-training, socialization, chewing, biting and common commands.

People Edited by Shonda Duxiel

ER vet for hire

A year after hanging up her hospital scrubs, Toronto-born actress Gloria Reuben says she doesn't miss her weekly gig on the hit television show *ER*. "I don't think that I left wishing or dreading that I had more to do," says the 36-year-old actress, who played Jessica Butler, an HIV-positive physician's assistant, for four years. Soon after ending the show, Reuben married Wayne Baizel, a music executive at the American video network VH-1, and left Los Angeles to join her in New York City.

Reuben is now experimenting with her career. The TV vet (who got her start on the Canadian show *Police Out There*) recently completed two scenes—first in New York, then in Toronto—in the hugely successful off-Broadway play *The Velveteen Mannequin*. Then Reuben spent time in New Orleans shooting the independent film *Happy Her and Now*. In it, Reuben's character is married to a fireman who dies in a blaze; a few months after his death, she falls for another firefighter.

Now that Reuben is done talking about vigors and losing vigors, she plans to spend time enjoying her new home and "watching it snow outside." She says that's another reason for leaving Los Angeles. "I missed the change of seasons."

A is for Apple and Adultery

"My son is nothing like Henry," says American writer Jane Hamilton of the 17-year-old narrator of her new novel, *Daughters*. "Except, this is, for the computer skills."

In Henry's case, his expertise allows him to enter his mother Beth's e-mail account and, over the course of a year, catch her adulterous affair with a victim-maker Hamilton, 43, whose previous best-sellers include 1994's *A Map of the World*—a film starring Sigourney Weaver—adopted her Henry-esque perspective for a fresh take on one of the oldest themes in literature. And Henry's observations, sometimes said and often furtive, provide a unique, family-oriented view of Beth's romance.

In contrast to Henry, the author's own son, Ben, 15, is far less



Hamilton, family-oriented novel

cautious about his mother's writing. Hamilton's family—she is married to apple-grower Bob Wilford, and the couple also have a daughter, Hannah, 13—lives on a farm near Rochester, Wis. When Hamilton asked Ben if he wanted to read a draft of *Daughters*, she says he said her, "No offense, Mom, but I don't ever want to read anything you've written." The author who named her son's response into "my favourite line in the novel," laughs at the memory. "I think Ben is a healthy mouse."



Reuben's talking about vigors and losing vigors

New world Trojan

Early in December at London's Barbican Hall, Canadian opera star Ben Hopper sang in a concert version of Berlioz's five-hour opera *The Trojans* along with the London Symphony Orchestra under Colin Davis. The 45-year-old tenor from Dawson Creek, B.C., wasn't nervous, but he did feel the weight of posterity: 43 years ago, a young Canadian singer named Jon Vickson sang the same role of Aeneas in London's Covent Garden Opera. "I feel Jon's shadow—ended I do," said Hopper, who will perform the role at New York City's Metropolitan Opera in 2005. But Hopper escapes the spotlight—and Vickson's shadow—by heading home to Toronto, where he lives with his wife, Karen, and their three children. "There," he says with obvious pleasure, "I don't get too many people stopping me when I walk the dog."



Hopper in the shadow

Richard's Party

Turning Carol Shields's acclaimed *Larry's Party* into a musical is a labour of love for Richard Ouzounian

By John Bourne

Even by downtown Toronto standards, Richard Ouzounian is a man in a hurry. Sitting in a King Street cafe, he racks into a press-hooped, with spicy sausage and hot peppers—the menu calls it *The Volcano*—and cheerfully lists everything he has to go through that day: The host of CBC Radio Two's *Say It with Me*, he'll run off after lunch to record a Christmas special in a nearby studio. That evening, there's a farewell dinner for friends, after which Ouzounian, who is also drama critic for *The Toronto Star*, has to review a new production of *Heuler*. But the project that is devouring more of his time these days is his musical version of Carol Shields's 1997 novel, *Larry's Party*. Created with his longtime friend and collaborator, composer Martin Bragg, the show—which opens on

Jan. 11 in Toronto before moving on to Ottawa and Winnipeg—has involved Ouzounian in an endless procession of rehearsals, not to mention late-night reviews of his lyrics and dialogue.

The 50-year-old writer, not only five feet tall, but also 160 lbs broad, youthful face beaming behind ovalish glasses, he scarcely pauses before answering a question about his creative apoplexy: "I grew up in New York," he offers. "Going slow is not an option." He claims that the first time he took his daughter, Katherine, to the Big Apple, she stopped in amazement at the sight of the hurrying crowds.

"Dad," she told him, "it's a whole city of pain!"

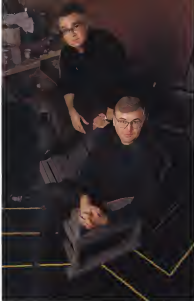
Since arriving from the United States nearly 30 years ago, Ouzounian has built a reputation as perhaps the most accomplished theatrical translator in the country—a man who can do virtually anything live theatre requires. He has written, directed and scored in countless musicals and plays, as well as producing television shows and heading several of Canada's major regional theatres. His four years as artistic director of the Manitoba Theatre Centre (1980-1984) are remembered as a kind of golden age, though a disastrous start

running Toronto's CentreStage in 1984-1985 turned him for several years with a reputation as a two-night populist. For the past decade, Ouzounian, his art administrator wife, Pamela, and their two children have lived in Toronto's Riverside neighbourhood. During that time, he and Norman have chalked up several successes, including the musicals *Billy and the Charleston Town* Festival and *Dracula* at the Stratford Festival.

Yet *Larry's Party* seems to have affected Ouzounian more deeply than any of those projects. "I think it's one of the best things I've written in my life," he says, "and it's because I wasn't writing it to be successful. I believed in the work—it's touched something inside me."

Ouzounian shows that the musical began with a calculated attempt to create a hit show. One evening in 1998, as they drove home from the theatre, he and Norman tossed around the names of several Canadian novels that they could stage. They considered Mordecai Richler's *Barney's Version* and Margaret Atwood's *The Robber Bride* before settling on *Larry's Party*, Shields's tale of a baby boomer, which both men had loved. And when Ouzounian opened his copy later that night, he spotted a passage near the end in which Larry—a landscape architect who builds houses—meditates on the difficulty, opposing nature of his life. Ouzounian was electrified. "I thought, 'What Larry's saying here is almost a song!'"

Ouzounian's infectious sense of urgency did the rest. The next morning he e-mailed Shields, then chairwoman of the University of Manitoba, asking for permission to adapt *Larry's Party*. Within 15 minutes, she had messaged him back: "I never thought of it as a musical, but if anyone knows about musicals, it's you. Go ahead." Ouzounian phoned Martin Bragg, the artistic producer of Toronto's Canadian Stage. As it happened, Bragg had been talking to Shields's agent, trying to get rights to produce a dramatic version of the novel. "The line," Ouzounian told him, "I've got the rights and it's going to be a musical."



Almost immediately, Bragg agreed to produce it. A process that might have been expected to take months or even years had been whipped up in less than 24 hours.

Ouzounian acknowledges that the meditative, introspective *Larry's Party* seems an unlikely choice for a musical. But he argues that the novel—whose chapters fit together like the pages of a book—has an irresistible universality. "Larry's concerns," he says, "are those we've all faced: my job's disappearing, my marriage is breaking up, how do I take care of my kids, how do I find another mate, how do I take care of my sick parents, how do I find meaning in my life? It's a book about many of our own realizations."

Ouzounian's creative partner, Norman, has attempted to catch the various degrees of Larry's life by composing in a

Norman (left) Ouzounian: the longtime collaborators have had several successes

medley of styles. "Each mood takes Larry down a different passage of his life," says the 48-year-old composer during a rehearsal break. "And in the end, when Larry has his transformative insight, all those moods fuse in a pure musical moment." Last spring, Norman and Ouzounian tried their creation out in front of Shields herself. In a small CBC studio in Toronto, Norman played and sang at a grand piano while Ouzounian read the dialogue to Shields and her daughter, Meg. Norman says that Shields, who had been battling cancer and was in remission at the time, was overwhelmingly supportive. In fact, he and Ouzounian were so moved by her response that ever since they have used it as a touchstone. "When we're struggling in rehearsal with a concept," Norman says, "we often stop and ask ourselves, 'What would Carol say if we did it this way?' It always helps us see things more clearly."

The role of Larry Wilton is being played by Brett Carver, an old friend of Ouzounian and Norman from their student days at the University of British Columbia. One of Canada's most luminous performers, Carver is coming off a triumphphant summer at the Stratford Festival, where he turned in the musical *Field of Dreams* and the new Timothy Findley play *Elizabeth Rex*. And the show is being staged by Robin Phillips, one of the finest directors in the English-speaking world. Both Ouzounian and Norman acknowledge that Phillips, acting as a kind of dramaturge, has improved their work immeasurably. Time and again, he has sent them back to the book to look at the subtlety of Shields's vision.

Phillips talks of how the book's apparent simplicity makes a symbolic and psychological complexity that grows with each re-reading. "There are all sorts of hidden patterns here, and this is one of the themes of the novel," she declares says. "There are patterns above and beyond us, and somehow this ordinary man, Larry Wilton, is in tune with them. He doesn't quite know that he is, yet he picks up this strange pattern of maze-making—out of the ether, as it were."

It is something that is there to breathe, for anyone who is capable of breathing it. And Larry is not only capable; he develops into an extraordinary man because of it."

For Richard Ouzounian, picking away at the last of his pen, one of the most fascinating things about Larry Wilton is the way the fragments of his life finally come together in a moment of blissful understanding. Is there something here of Ouzounian himself? After all, his own career has been unusually successful, both geographically and occupationally. But as he describes Phillips's staging of the musical's final scene—when Larry sees in a flash the unity and meaning of his life—a new time comes into his voice. "Seeing that one moment in rehearsal was worth everything to me," Ouzounian says with a smile. He lays down his book, and for a moment this ballet of men looks almost like...



Carver's coming off a triumphphant summer at the Stratford Festival



Brian D. Johnson

Flickers of brilliance

May you live an interesting time! So goes the ancient Chinese curse, and that sums up the kind of year it has been at the movies—not a great year, but an interesting one. No studio picture cracked a record the way *Avatar* did last year, and no indie film cut to the quick like *Boys Don't Cry*. The summer, with *The Prophet* series and the bloodbath of *The Firm*, was a bust. And with fans-Capers biberi dancing the Christmas season, Hollywood actually in a lull about the lack of clear Oscar front-runners.

But 2000 did turn up some good movies and curious trends. While Asian cinema dominated the festival circuit, *Ang Lee's Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon* made a gravity-defying leap into the North American mainstream. (That of *The Matrix* are now reeling sideways.) The year also reflected a shift to old-fashioned storytelling. Even with digital effects, *Gloster*

Surveying a weak field, our critic picks the top 10 movies of the year 2000

ericky. That is a personal list, but I've omitted my own favorite, Claire Denis's *Beau Travail*, because it didn't receive national distribution. I almost included *Billy Elliot*—it brought me no tears but tears I saw, but I will feel under punched by fireworks. Other rules that could pass as easily

have made that cut: *Almost Famous*, *The Golem*, *American Flyers*, *Tiger-Tiger* and *Best in Show*. Canadian highlights, aside from *Avatar*, were *New Wineford Girl*, *Kipahow* and two inspired shorts: Guy Maddin's *The Story of the Weirdest* and David Cronenberg's *Crème*. But now, The List. 1. **Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon Because it's the best Hollywood movie not made by Hollywood in recent memory. Because it's so many movies in one—a Tiger western, a feminist "western," a comic romance, a romantic tragedy. Because it conjures a Mandarin Newland, with young lovers in a desert cave and sword fights in swirling bamboo.**

2. **Traffic** With a multi-line interchange of cops, gangsters and addicts, Steven Soderbergh lays bare the reality of America's war on drugs. First, America's, now this—he'll be competing with himself at the Oscars. Director Del Toro is brilliant as a Mexican cop navigating a corrupt system.

3. **The Fast Count** on the Korean Longgang-Hee film festival is the *Five Easy Pieces* of our day. It's a restless, single mother, Liana Lacey, that the alien of a young, Meryl Streep, as her children's teacher, Mark Ruffalo, is a roundoff of good journalism gone awry.

4. **Shredder** Ridley Scott coaches Russell Crowe, Hollywood's new rough guy, in the Super Bowl of kickboxing. With an even coaching, tips and feisty weaponry, it rocks.

5. **High Fidelity** The year's smartest romantic comedy. Jack Black in an indie rubber ball of pure mischief. John Cusack does in a drinkable, compelling, Top Five list of old songs and old films. Number 3 with a bullet.

6. **Dancer in the Dark** Lars Von Trier, the refreshingly Dane, makes the year's most disturbing film, and shows an unusual performance from Björk, Iceland's singer-queen.

7. **Lost Boy** It begins and ends weakly, but the time spent alone on the island with Tom Hanks—in a silence as physical as language—is mesmerizing. Mainstream to the max.

8. **The Inevitable** With poetic images and disarming close-ups, Indira Senarath Saran frames the jungle odyssey of a young Tamil beauty who becomes a suicide bomber.

9. **En Brechtovich** Julia Roberts gives the performance of her career as a kick-ass Conchita in a real-life environmental fairy tale. Perry Warren turns tricks with subzero.

10. **Mushrooms** Nurtured by a fish, Denis Villeneuve's surreal tale of a woman in free fall is blithely original, surfing themes of guilt and despair with ironic buoyancy.



Scene from *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*; many movies in our

made it possible for *Avatar* and *Boys Don't Cry*. In *En Brechtovich*, Julia Roberts came armed with more cleavage and a Tracy-Hepburn schick, and *Billy Elliot* posed the dream of dancing your way out of the working class will never die.

Other trends: Movies about blockbusters came from two angles—Quill, *Finding Forrester*, *Wonder Boys*, *For God's Sake*—some of the year's strongest performances came from non-actors making their screen debut—Rob Brown (*Firestorm*), Jane Ball (*Billy Elliot*), Patrick Fugate (*Almost Famous*), Michelle Rodriguez (*Gojira*) and Björk (*Dancer in the Dark*). And in a year that saw the re-release of *George Sheffer* and *The 5,000 Fingers of Dr. T*, there were two films about rock-worms trying to figure out their life: *Almost Famous* and *Peter Pan* from a music consultant, *High Fidelity* had a career from Bruce Springsteen. Genre which was more authentic.

When a few enter clearly stand out, choosing a top 10 is

Television

High-school confidential

Teens grapple with young love in a new soap

Edgemont
CBC, starting on Jan. 4, 7 p.m.

Teenage years are rife with dramatic potential, as shown by such TV series as *Dawson's Creek* and the debut of *Beverly Hills 90210*. And now there's *Edgemont*, a 26-episode teen soap that begins on CBC on Jan. 4. The series takes its name from a fictional Every Suburbia near Vancouver, described by one informant as having "atoms that all look the same, and candles for days." Filmed entirely on CBC's Vancouver studio on a budget of \$130,000 per episode, the half-hour segments, like the best of their teen cousins, are mostly confined to the generic school, home or local hangout. Adults exist only as spectators or meddling interlopers.

What makes *Edgemont* a grade above mean teen shows is well-rounded, be-



Kresh mixed assignments and romance of pregnancy

flexible characters—glazed by a mix of newcomers and veterans, all Canadian—and sharp dialogue with the ring of authenticity. The show focuses on a trio of young people: the troubled but sympathetic Mark (Dennis Zeng), his girl-next-door love match, Jennifer (Sarah Lark), and newcomer Laurel (Rebecca Kresh), newly arrived from Toronto, who falls for Mark by

the second episode. Other characters are recognizable high-school types, including the competitive and scheming Gil (Richard Kohan), who gets caught copying a friend's essay, and spindly-loving social misfit and gossip queen, Victoria (Victoria King).

Each half-hour installment revolves around a couple of sticky situations—like a fake marriage that Laurel left her last school because she was pregnant, or Mark's suspension from class for yet another missed assignment. And the dialogue, peppered with slang terms like "manic man," "kick ass" or "joshes in 9 o'clock," reinforces the sense of con-

spiring, as a cross of tears in the local 7-Eleven. *Edgemont* is already making its way beyond Canada: the show has been sold to the U.S. Fox Family network, and in Israel, Ireland and Britain. It seems that young people's troubles, like pop culture, have gone global.

Susan Oh

Slick cops, Canadian-style

Blue Murder
Global, starting on Jan. 10, 10 p.m.

The leather-clad biker looks his way into an apartment. Inside, a woman has died in a pool of blood, a bullet hole between his eyes. "Call the police," crows the building manager. "Don't bother," says the biker, flashing a badge. "We're already here." The dead man, too, was an undercover cop, and his murder leads to the formation of the crack inves-

igative team at the end of *Blue Murder*, a new, \$12.2-million, 13-part series.

Canadians Steve Luzzi and Cal Coombs have created a slick show filled with appealing characters. Insp. Victoria Candell (Mina del Mar) is the crisp head of the Toronto investigative unit, which includes eager detective-attendant Det. Ed O'Brien (Jon Kellie) and his shyly paled partner, Det. Sgt. Jack Pogue (Jeremy Ratchford). Deputy Chief of detective command Kay Barrow (TV



Revealed, a crack police team in homicide

veteran Mini Kuypik), meanwhile, is a voice of reason in her battles with the media's police commentators.

The pilot is long on pretty shots and short on dramatic moments, but other episodes unfold compellingly. *Blue Murder* at the same time as the U.S. hit *Law & Order*. But with its complex scripts and distinctively

Canadian subject matter, the new series is worth checking out.

S.O.

Top Music of 2000

BEST POP

1. **Paul Simon** *Naked* (Epic)

The most adventurous rock album of the year often drowns in its own lush, swirling, off-kilter, and sometimes off-kilter. But it's ultimately saved by its hopeful destination with a message about survival in an alienated world.



Harvard; brilliant debut

2. **Sheryl Crowe**

I Am Sheryl Crowe (Universal)

Sheryl Crowe's third album, due this November, is a collection of songs that showcase her talent as a songwriter, performer, and singer. The album is a collection of songs that showcase her talent as a songwriter, performer, and singer.

3. **Paul Simon** *Naked* (Epic)

Simon has created a gem that seamlessly blends world-beat rhythms and poetic wisdom.

4. **The Tragically Hip**

My Music Is Work (Universal)

Canada's quintessential rock group keeps growing, finding new ways of showcasing God Down's imaginative lyrics to ever more eclectic songs.

5. **Neil Young** *Silver and Gold* (Reprise)

Neil Young's hauntingly beautiful solo debut from his recent, *Neil Young*, this is vintage Neil Young, full of raw emotion, raw music, and raw emotion.

6. **Steve Earle** *Travis* (Capitol)

Travis (Capitol)

Steve Earle's third album, due this November, is a collection of songs that showcase his talent as a songwriter, performer, and singer. The album is a collection of songs that showcase his talent as a songwriter, performer, and singer.

7. **Steve Earle** *Travis* (Capitol)

Steve Earle's third album, due this November, is a collection of songs that showcase his talent as a songwriter, performer, and singer. The album is a collection of songs that showcase his talent as a songwriter, performer, and singer.

8. **Blondie** *The Days*

The Days (Capitol)

Blondie's third album, due this November, is a collection of songs that showcase their talent as a songwriter, performer, and singer. The album is a collection of songs that showcase their talent as a songwriter, performer, and singer.

9. **Paula Abdul** *Stripped* (A&M)

Paula Abdul's third album, due this November, is a collection of songs that showcase her talent as a songwriter, performer, and singer. The album is a collection of songs that showcase her talent as a songwriter, performer, and singer.

Pop Movies

1. Gladiator (Warner)	10,000,000
2. The Matrix (Warner)	10,000,000
3. The Matrix Reloaded (Warner)	10,000,000
4. The Matrix Revolutions (Warner)	10,000,000
5. The Matrix (Warner)	10,000,000
6. The Matrix (Warner)	10,000,000
7. The Matrix (Warner)	10,000,000
8. The Matrix (Warner)	10,000,000
9. The Matrix (Warner)	10,000,000
10. The Matrix (Warner)	10,000,000

BEST CLASSICAL

1. **Andrea Bocelli** *Verdi* (Polygram)

The tenor catches Italy's greatest composers, infusing the ones with warmth, passion and grandeur to make them universally appealing.



Bocelli: warmth and passion

2. **Anna-Sophia Mutter**

Reich's 20th (DG/Universal)

The violinist makes 20th-century works by Shostakovich and others with spontaneity and gusto.

3. **Patricia O'Callaghan**

Real Emotional Girl (Marquee Classics)

O'Callaghan now adds Bob Dylan and Randy Newman to her list of new album releases.

4. **Emerson String Quartet**

Shostakovich String Quartets (DG/Universal)

The Russian composer's string quartets find their way to the ears of the world.

5. **Angela Hewitt** *Beethoven* (Hyperion)

The Ottawa-born pianist continues to explore the German composer's vast musical landscape.

From least to feast

Like everything else in one of the world's most decentralized nations, Canadian culture is highly regional. Anna Stewart, whose business card reads "Author/Culinary Activist," thinks Canadians should know more about other regions' cooking, and has dedicated her lovely illustrated *Flavour of Canada* (Blackcat) to that end. Many of her recipes are historical.



Maple Syrup, Corned Beef, and The Best of Canadian Food are just a few of the recipes in this book. The book is a collection of recipes that showcase the best of Canadian food.

Best Sellers

1. The Matrix (Warner)	10,000,000
2. The Matrix Reloaded (Warner)	10,000,000
3. The Matrix Revolutions (Warner)	10,000,000
4. The Matrix (Warner)	10,000,000
5. The Matrix (Warner)	10,000,000
6. The Matrix (Warner)	10,000,000
7. The Matrix (Warner)	10,000,000
8. The Matrix (Warner)	10,000,000
9. The Matrix (Warner)	10,000,000
10. The Matrix (Warner)	10,000,000

Nonfiction

1. The Matrix (Warner)	10,000,000
2. The Matrix Reloaded (Warner)	10,000,000
3. The Matrix Revolutions (Warner)	10,000,000
4. The Matrix (Warner)	10,000,000
5. The Matrix (Warner)	10,000,000
6. The Matrix (Warner)	10,000,000
7. The Matrix (Warner)	10,000,000
8. The Matrix (Warner)	10,000,000
9. The Matrix (Warner)	10,000,000
10. The Matrix (Warner)	10,000,000

BEST JAZZ

1. **Quincy Jones** *Back on the Block* (A&M)

The jazz legend's latest album, due this November, is a collection of songs that showcase his talent as a songwriter, performer, and singer. The album is a collection of songs that showcase his talent as a songwriter, performer, and singer.

2. **Ray Charles** *Genius* (A&M)

Ray Charles's latest album, due this November, is a collection of songs that showcase his talent as a songwriter, performer, and singer. The album is a collection of songs that showcase his talent as a songwriter, performer, and singer.

3. **Quincy Jones** *Back on the Block* (A&M)

The jazz legend's latest album, due this November, is a collection of songs that showcase his talent as a songwriter, performer, and singer. The album is a collection of songs that showcase his talent as a songwriter, performer, and singer.

4. **Ray Charles** *Genius* (A&M)

Ray Charles's latest album, due this November, is a collection of songs that showcase his talent as a songwriter, performer, and singer. The album is a collection of songs that showcase his talent as a songwriter, performer, and singer.

5. **Quincy Jones** *Back on the Block* (A&M)

The jazz legend's latest album, due this November, is a collection of songs that showcase his talent as a songwriter, performer, and singer. The album is a collection of songs that showcase his talent as a songwriter, performer, and singer.

6. **Ray Charles** *Genius* (A&M)

Ray Charles's latest album, due this November, is a collection of songs that showcase his talent as a songwriter, performer, and singer. The album is a collection of songs that showcase his talent as a songwriter, performer, and singer.

Nicholas Jennings

INTERNET Shopping Guide

MASTERMIND TOYS.COM

Mastermind Toys is a leading online toy store, offering a wide selection of toys, games, and more.

HENRY'S PHOTO, VIDEO

Henry's Photo, Video is a leading online photo and video store, offering a wide selection of photo and video products.

DC QUALITY OF COURSE INC.

DC Quality of Course Inc. is a leading online course store, offering a wide selection of courses.

GRANBY STEEL TANKS

Granby Steel Tanks is a leading online steel tank store, offering a wide selection of steel tanks.

MACLEAN'S

Maclean's is a leading online magazine store, offering a wide selection of magazines.

MACLEAN'S

Maclean's is a leading online magazine store, offering a wide selection of magazines.

MACLEAN'S

Maclean's is a leading online magazine store, offering a wide selection of magazines.

MACLEAN'S

Maclean's is a leading online magazine store, offering a wide selection of magazines.

MACLEAN'S

Maclean's is a leading online magazine store, offering a wide selection of magazines.

MACLEAN'S

Maclean's is a leading online magazine store, offering a wide selection of magazines.

MACLEAN'S

Maclean's is a leading online magazine store, offering a wide selection of magazines.

MACLEAN'S

Maclean's is a leading online magazine store, offering a wide selection of magazines.

MACLEAN'S

Maclean's is a leading online magazine store, offering a wide selection of magazines.

MACLEAN'S

Maclean's is a leading online magazine store, offering a wide selection of magazines.

MACLEAN'S

Maclean's is a leading online magazine store, offering a wide selection of magazines.

MACLEAN'S

Maclean's is a leading online magazine store, offering a wide selection of magazines.

MACLEAN'S

Maclean's is a leading online magazine store, offering a wide selection of magazines.

MACLEAN'S

Maclean's is a leading online magazine store, offering a wide selection of magazines.

MACLEAN'S

Maclean's is a leading online magazine store, offering a wide selection of magazines.



Allan Fotheringham

That was the year that was

Well, folks, with one year ending and another starting, it's time for the family annual best-of-the-year review across the nation to all our dear and beloved readers.

It's especially dedicated to Uncle Fred as New Brunswick, who has just been released from jail, and Auntie Maude in Kaskaskia, whose latest shipment of coke from Colombia was unfortunately intercepted by the feds. We wish them loads of love.

Anne and Allan had a most interesting year 2000, the best part being, naturally, Allan's amazingly accurate election predictions. He's still paying off the campaign loss, and hopes they will be cleared by 2005.

Age, an appropriate day reader, cooked, of course, on November. And this after she had just about cleaned up on her well-known warnings on Per-X. Her social triumph of the season came when she accepted a dinner party at our modest pad, featuring Neil Lomax, Stockwell Day, Garth Drabinski and Gillian Goss. It didn't seem to work out—they all went home at 8:30, claiming other priorities.

In April, Allan at a party had sized Hilary Whison, Ontario's Irish law lieutenant governor, out to lunch. She said, "Perhaps by Christmas." Christmas has now passed. Guess the season another year.

The house burned down. The God damn accident again. Allan wore a cologne, the *Maclean's*—after the family members in Saskatchewan featuring 326 relatives—about towns called Moose Breath, Safe, Over Haunch, Man, and Gopher Jump. After a midnight, the exhausted fire-checker at Montreal—born in Toronto, one guesses—phoned to complain she had searched every map and atlas in the land and couldn't find one of them. Allan wept.

In July, it was discovered that Allan had a gallbladder problem. At the family reunion, 139 relatives gave exquisite details of their gallbladder operations. Allan has warned all his children.

Later in August, the surgeons promised a liver-been operation that would last 45 minutes. It lasted 3½ hours and they took out Allan's bladder but left him with all his gill. (Which is not divided into three parts.)

In September, Anne and Allan went to Australia for the Olympic Games. Allan was not asked to participate in a ma-

gle event. Anne and Allan found their most emotional and tear-jerking, paroxysmic moment was when Mel Lastman, mayor of all Toronto, unleashed his secret weapon to get his city the 2008 Olympics—winning it a push one of his flagrant moves.

The CBS and NBC cameramen were there, waiting to interview the mayor. Mel, bored, tried to sneak out the back way early and in the darkness tripped over a vibrant rape and fell flat on his paroxysm at front of CBS and NBC. They decided to cancel the interview. Allan and Anne were proud to be Canadians in their moment.

Anne and Allan then went to Shanghai for a week, where everyone on the street stopped them to ask, "Do you know Mel Lastman?" They stayed in the Prince Hotel on the Bund,

where the famous jazz band has been playing since 1937, all the time with the same players, in short sleeves when they dance.

Allan, the first Anne of journalism, on the dance floor with Anne, surprised to demonstrate his highly praised "Saskatchewan Dip." Half the assembly gave him a standing ovation. The other half wrapped him around. Such a life.

In October, Allan did not make it into *People* magazine once. October was our best month of the year.

Anne, as you know, goes to the gym at the tennis club most every morning. The rumours about her and the Portuguese personal trainer are apparently not true. She does her quads, then her sit. She dresses extremely well, as everyone knows, and looks wonderful in the wheelchair.

Overall though, it's been a swell year. The B.C. Lions won the Grey Cup and George Bush learned the names of three foreign countries. Madonna gave married and we hope she'll find the name of the father of her third child. Mel's a bracing for the DNA test and Stockwell is undergoing sensitivity training and being told that Adam and Eve didn't really exist. Paul Martin is in a holding pattern and Anne figures that there can't possibly be another of Allan's bodily parts that can be removed surgically, except the brain—which the letter-to-the-editor column claims has already been removed.

The accountant at Allan's newspaper said, on receiving his expense account from Australia and China, "Are you easy?" Allan is, not sure, still composing his reply.



Expect more. Get more.

Whether you're choosing a new friend or a financial services company, the higher you set your expectations, the greater your potential for rewards. Is it any coincidence then that more and more Canadians are choosing Transamerica Life Canada?

EXPECT MORE FOR YOURSELVES

Whether it's for your family or your small business, when you choose Transamerica Life Canada, you can expect more than just traditional insurance. Much more. We now offer a wide range of wealth management products and services ranging from business solutions to some ingenious new ideas to help you enjoy a lifetime of financial growth and security. After all, helping to protect what you've built over the years is what we're all about.



EXPECT MORE FOR YOUR RETIREMENT



When you choose Transamerica Life Canada, you can expect advanced investment solutions designed to increase net worth, maximize taxes, and protect the money you accumulate. You can also expect to see some new opportunities for retirement and estate planning you may have never thought possible.

EXPECT MORE FROM US

When you choose Transamerica Life Canada, you are choosing a market leader in the Canadian insurance industry, Canada's #1 provider of segregated funds and universal life insurance products. And there's more to come. A lot more. Just call one of the 18,000 independent advisors who support our products and services for more information or visit our web site at www.transamerica.ca.



TRANSAMERICA LIFE
CANADA



I'm the boss, so the **buck** stops here.
And the more bucks the better.



do more



Small Business
Services

Introducing 10-45% discounts for small business.

Use the American Express® Corporate Card for Small Business on purchases from companies like FedEx, IBM, Delta Hotels, Hertz, McGraw-Hill Ryerson, and more, and get discounts of 10 to 45%. Automatically. Plus you can enjoy unique benefits and services. All in all, it's an advantage no small business owner should be without. Visit us at www.americanexpress.ca or call 1-888-503-AMEX for details.

- No pre-set spending limit
- Membership Rewards® Program
- Management Reports
- Front Of The Line® entertainment ticket access



Certain restrictions and annual fees apply. Program partners, prices and discounts subject to change without notice. Purchases approved based on account experience and personal resources. Membership Rewards Program enrollment optional. Annual fees apply. ®, used under license from American Express Company. Copyright ©: Amex Bank of Canada, 2000.